

Political Sparks Fly Over Euro

To Fight a Deal, Bundesbank Rethinks Support for Currency

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — The possibility that a brokered deal might split the term of the European central bank president has angered some members of the Bundesbank's governing council that they are considering asking for fresh debate on the central bank's qualified support for the euro.

The newspaper *Bild am Sonntag* reported Sunday that the Bundesbank's president, Hans Tietmeyer, had sent a letter to Chancellor Helmut Kohl saying the Bundesbank would reconsider its recommendation on the euro Thursday, a day before European leaders will meet to officially select countries for the single currency starting Jan. 1.

In confirming the thrust of the *Bild am Sonntag* report, a well-informed source who asked not to be identified said a Bundesbank council member would raise an objection Thursday at a meeting of the council to what he saw as a violation of the future bank's independence. That board member is expected to argue that the validity of his vote for the Bundesbank to endorse the euro project was threatened by the proposed compromise over the presidency.

The motion by the board member, in turn, threatens to open a debate by the full 16-member council over the general validity of the March 26 endorsement which has proven essential for German lawmakers to back the project.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel said he knew about a plan for the central bank to hold yet another debate over the euro but declined to elaborate. "I am aware of this event, but I will not discuss any details," Mr. Waigel told Reuters.

The Bundesbank issued a carefully worded denial of the *Bild* account, saying without elaboration that the report "in this form" was not accurate.

Leading Bundesbank officials in recent days have stressed their opposition to any tinkering with the proposed eight-year term of the European bank presidency. *Bild am Sonntag* quoted a Bundesbank council member, Reimut

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Room to Maneuver Shrinks As Bonn-Paris Tension Grows

By John Vinocur
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Their faces almost touching, Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl shouted accusations at one another while their petrified cabinet ministers watched. The argument in the corridors of a European summit meeting 16 months ago was described as reaching such dangerous proportions that one of Mr. Chirac's aides slapped him on the shoulder, telling him to stop.

The clash in Dublin in December 1996 over details of the so-called stability pact that lays out economic performance targets for countries involved in the planned European monetary union is disclosed in "Le Roman de l'Euro" by Gabriel Milesi, a new book about the creation of Europe's single currency.

Assuming the account is accurate, it illustrates the enormous tensions that have surrounded the arrival of the euro, the fears and distrust felt in France and Germany about giving up economic sovereignty in exchange for uncertain calculations as to how the new money and associated institutions could limit or decrease their power as nations.

Those tensions are at their highest this week, leaving attention focused on monetary union's contradictions rather than its expected accomplishments.

Six days before a summit meeting here at which the European Union is to officially name the 11 countries that will adopt the euro and choose either Wim Duisenberg of the Netherlands or Jean-Claude Trichet of France as president of the new European central bank, the mood of the community was described as "rotten" by a high-ranking diplomat.

The diplomat said attempts to resolve the dispute over the bank's leadership were centered on a series of direct communications between the German chancellor and the French president. It is widely expected now that Mr. Duisenberg will be named the bank's first president Saturday. But it was totally unclear what kind of reconciliation, possibly involving a shortened term in office for the bank's

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Mr. Hoepner, the Social Democratic premier, and his wife, Renate, heading to vote in Magdeburg in the Saxony-Anhalt elections Sunday.

Voters Give Kohl's Party 'Clear Slap' In State Vote

Foothold for Far Right; Social Democrats Gain But Only Marginally

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — In a key barometer of voter sentiment five months ahead of Germany's national elections, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing Christian Democrats suffered a serious defeat and the far-right German People's Union scored a stunning breakthrough on Sunday in the Eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt.

The Social Democrats, who hope to break Mr. Kohl's 16-year grip on power this autumn, confirmed their status as the state's dominant party. Led by the state premier, Reinhard Hoepner, the Social Democrats improved their share to about 36 percent, from 34 percent in 1994, but fell well short of what opinion polls had forecast.

The Christian Democrats' share of the vote plunged to about 22 percent, a fall of more than 12 percentage points, compared with the 1994 election that reflected widespread dismay with record levels of joblessness in one of Germany's poorest states. Unemployment in Saxony-Anhalt, once the industrial heartland of Communist East Germany, has soared to 25 percent, the highest rate among Germany's 16 states.

The Party of Democratic Socialism, the former Communists, sustained their position as the third-largest party, with about 20 percent of the vote, but the Greens and Mr. Kohl's governing partner, the Free Democrats, failed to clear the 5 percent hurdle needed under German electoral law to enter the state assembly, according to early returns.

But the biggest surprise was the extraordinary breakthrough by the German People's Union, a fiercely anti-immigrant group of rightist nationalists who rose from obscurity to win about 1.2 percent of the vote. It has emerged in recent years as the fastest-growing party on the far right, feeding on voter resentment toward the 9 million foreigners in Germany, who are accused by rightist extremists of stealing jobs and strength.

Her optimism, echoed by several other Thür leaders, is based on two new realities. The first is the police's fresh zeal in pursuing corruption against senior officials. The second is the passage of a new constitution, drafted by a grass-roots

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Mr. Clean, a Thai Policeman, Leads Fight on Corrupt Politics

By Joseph Kahn
New York Times Service

BANGKOK — Lieutenant General Seri Temyavej is a modest career police officer who makes an outlandish claim, at least for Thailand: "I have never taken a bribe."

That is hard to prove, especially in a land of a thousand petty police injustices. But people seem to have faith in General Seri, who, as head of the Central Investigation Bureau, has become a national folk hero since the country's economy went into a downward spiral last summer.

These days, his fans include Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, who promoted the general to the top of the police hierarchy as one of his first acts as prime minister late last year. Now, the general has become a leading symbol of a re-

form effort that shows signs of dramatically reshaping the government by smacking Thailand's notoriously corrupt political system.

Indeed, while many Thais and foreign investors expect that more-open markets, better regulation and more competitive companies will emerge from today's financial morass, the most tangible changes may not be economic at all, but political and legal.

Many Thais would agree that their troubles have less to do with their ability to create great wealth than their leaders' determination to skim it. Minor corruption actually promotes growth, some

analysts say, and Thailand had the world's fastest-growing economy for nearly a decade.

But as the country grew richer, its corruption became extravagant to the point that some see it as a direct contributor to the meltdown. Many suspect that government regulators, in return for favors, overlooked shoddy bank management that contributed to the financial system's collapse. Across this city are ill-conceived infrastructure projects that lined politicians' pockets but sapped the government's financial strength.

"It would not be wrong to say that

corruption is the single most important reason for our economic meltdown," said Pasuk Phongpaichit, an economist at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. "We now have the best opportunity in modern history to do something about it. I even feel a little bit optimistic."

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AGENDA

Lebed Is Leading, But Runoff Likely



Alexander Lebed, left, listening to a voter Sunday in Krasnoyarsk.

Starr Questions Hillary Clinton 5 Hours

By Peter Baker
and Susan Schmidt
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The independent counsel Kenneth Starr and his deputies have questioned Hillary Rodham Clinton under oath for nearly five hours at the White House as prosecutors appeared to be nearing a possible decision on whether to seek to indict her in the Whitewater investigation.

The afternoon-long interview Saturday, which was videotaped so that it can

be shown to a grand jury in Little Rock, centered on Mrs. Clinton's legal work when her husband was governor of Arkansas. The four-hour, 40-minute session was the sixth time the first lady has been interviewed by the independent counsel's office, but it was her longest meeting with prosecutors to date and came just two weeks before the grand jury's term is due to expire.

The fact that Mr. Starr would conduct such a long interview at this juncture in his four-year inquiry — even as his staff has been consumed with the Monica

Lewinsky investigation — suggested he is acting with an eye toward making a decision on whether to bring charges against Mrs. Clinton before the Little Rock grand jury disbands May 7.

[Orrin Hatch, a Republican and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a broadcast interview Sunday he did not believe Mrs. Clinton would be indicted, "no matter how much her fingerprints are on almost everything from Whitewater up to now."

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Iraqi Lavishness Hurts Sanctions Case

By Robin Wright
and Craig Turner
Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — As Iraq tries to persuade the United Nations this week to lift economic sanctions on the country, Iraqi leaders are facing a growing public-relations problem: New indications of lavish spending by President Saddam Hussein and his inner circle undercut their claim that the embargo has brought severe hardships.

The sanctions, up for review at the United Nations on Monday, are expected to be renewed because Iraq has not destroyed all of its weapons of mass destruction as required under the cease-fire agreement that ended the Gulf War in 1991.

Although the debate is to focus on compliance with the weapons requirements, some allies view the suffering caused by the sanctions as a reason to ease the embargo.

Eight years after the United Nations imposed the sanctions, Iraq has lost an estimated \$115 billion in oil revenue. Iraqi leaders contend that the sanctions are responsible for food shortages, malnutrition and premature deaths.

The sanctions have taken an enormous toll on the Iraqi people. But Western diplomats and specialists on the region say that many other factors are also responsible, including government inefficiency, domestic repression, ethnic discrimination — and spending by Mr. Saddam on such comforts as new palaces, which envoys were given access to for the first time this month.

Inside the compounds, envoys found imported marble, posh furnishings and elaborate landscaping, all paid for during the period the sanctions have been in effect.

There are other examples as well. When the Iraqi deputy prime minister,

Tariq Aziz, traveled from Baghdad to New York in November to complain to the UN Security Council about the sanctions, he made the last leg of his trip, from Paris, on the world's most luxurious jetliner.

The Air France Concorde offered Mr. Aziz and his seven aides pampered service, haute cuisine and wines from the cellars of the best French chateaux.

The round-trip fare per person, according to the airline, was \$8,435.20.

Carey, diplomat and observers say, Mr. Saddam and his inner circle have escaped the most punishing restrictions. But in the battle to influence world public opinion, they have exploited the hardships of ordinary citizens.

About the same time that Mr. Aziz was flying to New York, for example, Iraqi officials in Baghdad escorted U.S. and European journalists through the fly-infested pediatric ward of a hospital and blamed a growing list of malnutrition cases and medical shortages on the sanctions.

Also around that time, government-organized demonstrators paraded empty children's coffins through the streets to dramatize the fact that deaths among children under age 5 in Iraq rose from 7,000 in 1989 to 57,000 in 1996, according to statistics provided by Iraq to Unicef.

"Iraq has been utterly brilliant in the way it has played the sanctions card," said a Western diplomat who recently left Iraq. "It has turned punishment into a virtual asset in winning back acceptance of the regime."

Unicef estimates that more than 1 million children under age 5, or nearly one-third of all the children in that age group in Iraq, are chronically malnourished. But diplomats and aid workers have raised questions about the causes.

Many children in Baghdad hospitals

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But Baghdad Repeats Threat

Reuters

BAGHDAD — Iraq again demanded an end to United Nations sanctions against it on Sunday and said warnings that its foes would pay a heavy price if the sanctions were maintained should be taken seriously.

The Iraqi culture and information minister, Human Abdul Khalig Abdul Ghafar, said that UN Security Council deliberations in New York on Monday should focus only on lifting the embargo. He said visits by UN inspectors to eight so-called presidential sites in recent weeks had shown that no weapons were hidden there.

In Washington, Defense Secretary

William Cohen said Sunday that Iraq had failed to meet UN requirements on the destruction of nerve gas and other weapons of mass destruction.

He said on Fox Television that President Saddam Hussein had previously acknowledged that Iraq had 50 Scud missiles with chemical warheads, 25 missiles armed with biological agents, and 4 tons of VX nerve gas.

Mr. Cohen said Iraq "has to show where, when, how all these systems were destroyed." He said a report by the head of the UN inspection teams, Richard Butler, which was to be debated at the UN on Monday, showed those obligations had not been met.

On the Pharmaceutical Frontier, Looking for Keys to Quality of Life

By Justin Gillis
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Find a sympathetic doctor these days and head down to the corner drugstore with a few prescriptions in hand, and you can walk out with a sack of goodies that promise to make life better.

There's Propecia, a \$50-a-month treatment to make a balding man's hair grow back. There's a prescription cream called

Retin-A to make wrinkles fade. There's Prozac for positive thinking and a new drug that can make people thinner.

There is also Viagra, an impotence treatment that some urologists say will make sex better even for men who are not impotent. For that matter, it may make sex better for women who take it.

This is the new frontier of drug development: quality-of-life pharmacology. The products on the market now are merely the first wave. In the lab-

oratories of U.S. drug and biotechnology companies, a dazzling array of new treatments is under development.

Taking advantage of growing knowledge of the body's elementary processes, scientists at these companies say they expect to be able to restore joints damaged by arthritis, lower the body's "set point" to banish flat, grow new blood vessels to replace ones that clog up, stop age-related degeneration of the eyes and bones. In short, they hope to

keep people looking and feeling vigorous well into the decades that used to be regarded as old age.

Among scientists there is not much question that a lot of this will happen — the only real question is how soon. "Where all this technology is taking us is into a series of qualitative improvements in people's lives," said William Haseltine, head of Human Genomes Sciences Inc. of Maryland, a company in the vanguard of the new pharmacology.

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Newstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 BD Muta
Cyprus	55 c
Denmark	14.00 Dkr
Finland	12.00 FM
Gibraltar	£ 0.85
Great Britain	£ 0.90
Egypt	£ 5.50
Jordan	1,250 JD
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Unexpected Success Story / Nearly a Million From Former Soviet Republics

'The Russians' Keep Coming and Changing Israel'By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

HIFA, Israel — Like a huge earthquake followed by endless aftershocks, Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to allow Jews to leave the Soviet Union en masse nearly a decade ago has reshaped the political, cultural and economic landscape of Israel and continues to redefine the state.

Both in its massive scale — nearly a million former Soviet immigrants will have arrived by 2000 — and its astonishingly high educational and professional quality, the Russian influx is unlike any previous surge of immigration to Israel, which this week celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Even now, immigrants from the Soviet successor states continue to land at Ben-Gurion International Airport at a clip of more than 150 a day, dwarfing all other current immigrant groups to Israel and altering neighborhoods, offices and the country's political calculus.

The "Russians," a generic term encompassing immigrants from all 15 former Soviet republics, have confounded expectations in Israel. Having once been seen as a threat to jobs, wages and prosperity, they have in fact helped reinvigorate the nation's economy.

For immigrants who arrived in the early 1990s, the unemployment rate, about 7 percent, is below that of other Israelis. Most have bought their own apartments. Half own cars. The once-gaping disparity in earnings is closing as Russians steadily move up the corporate ladder.

"If you look at the U.S., France, Germany or Canada, their immigrants are always less skilled than the native population," said Rachel Friedman, an economist at Brown University in Rhode Island. "But the Russians are actually more skilled than native Israelis — more engineers, more musicians, more physicians. Over time they've done incredibly well."

From its founding in 1948, Israel has been a country of immigrants, and it remains emphatically so today. Half the exceptionally young population of 5.9 million was born elsewhere. Nearly all the cabinet ministers in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government are immigrants or the sons of immigrants from a broad spectrum of the Jewish diaspora — Russians, Ukrainians, Moroccans, Yemenis, Spaniards, Tunisians, Austrians, Hungarians, Iranians, Romanians and Kurds.

IMIGRATION is central to Israel's self-image and to its drive and ambition. It is also a well-spring of heartache, social upheaval and political tension.

The myth of an Israeli melting pot, nurtured for decades by Jews who flocked to the new country seeking social harmony in a land of their own, has yielded to a harsh new reality: a culture at once richer and more diverse, but ever more balkanized than its founders ever imagined. Just look south of Tel Aviv, to the town of Bnei Ayish, where a construction manager from Moscow who barely knew what a bar mitzvah was a decade ago



Michael Kagan, center, the first Russian hired in Israel by Intel Corp., in 1983, sitting with some of the 150 other Soviet immigrants who work for the technology company now.

Netanyahu Rejects Any U.S. Pressure*Reuters*

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged the United States on Sunday not to put pressure on Israel to widen the scope of its long-delayed troop withdrawal in the West Bank.

"I hope that the United States sticks to its position that Israel and Israel alone must determine its security and its redeployment," he told the U.S. Fox news channel before a scheduled meeting with the U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross.

"I assure you that we will do our utmost but I will not go beyond those things that I think

might jeopardize Israel's security," Mr. Netanyahu said.

In an unpublished U.S. package deal to open negotiations on final Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, Washington is reported to want Israel to withdraw its forces from an additional 13 percent of the West Bank under interim agreements. Israel, citing security problems, has called the 13 percent figure unacceptable.

Mr. Ross was back in the region to prepare the ground for separate talks Mr. Netanyahu and the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, will hold in London on May 4 with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

is now on the verge of becoming mayor. Grigori Lifshits arrived in Israel in 1992 and moved to Bnei Ayish, which consisted of a few hundred families, most of them immigrants from Yemen who settled there in the late 1950s. The families lived in bungalows, worked in the groves and fields outside town, kept kosher kitchens, sent their kids to a religious school and attended synagogue regularly.

Mr. Lifshits, now in his late 40s, represented a new breed of immigrant for Bnei Ayish — urban, professional, college-educated and secular.

"Few of us knew the first thing about Judaism in Russia," said Mr. Lifshits, who is one of just a handful of Russians in Bnei Ayish who wears a religious skullcap.

The Russian settlers in Bnei Ayish soon became a flood and the Yemenis who had been there for

years began talking about a "Russian takeover." What had been a settlement of 1,500 people swelled to a town of 7,000. Three-story apartment blocks — referred to by the Yemenis as "high-rises" — sprouted to house the newcomers. The apartment blocks were in the southwest of town; the Yemenis' bungalows were in the northeast.

In their part of town, the Russians opened delicatessens — one called Arbat, after Moscow's famous pedestrian street — selling ham and bacon. Few attended synagogue; almost none kept a kosher kitchen. They built secular schools for their children. They opened a new community center where the lingua franca was Russian and the sport of choice volleyball.

Swamped by the newcomers, the Yemenis despaired. Nearly two-thirds of the town is now

Pro-Israel Lobby in U.S. Wields Discreet PowerBy Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

West Bank. Senior Israeli diplomats met with AIPAC leaders at the residence of the Israeli ambassador, Eliezer Ben-Elissar.

AIPAC was pressing senators to sign a letter urging President Bill Clinton not to go public with an American proposal for a withdrawal that Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, would oppose. But fewer than 40 senators had signed, and by some accounts this meeting was a strategy session to coordinate the lobbying effort.

A few days later, 81 senators had signed. While administration officials were privately annoyed by the pressure, and denied that Mr. Clinton wanted a public confrontation with Israel, they were also impressed by the number of signatures — as AIPAC meant them to be.

Mr. Clinton's special Middle East envoy, Dennis Ross, was sent on yet another negotiating trip to the region, and there was a renewed effort by the administration and by Mr. Netanyahu to find a compromise. "We were doing that anyway," said AIPAC spokesman Howard Kohn.

The group's executive director, Howard Kohn, genially denies any untoward complicity

between the Israeli Embassy and AIPAC, which Fortune magazine has called the second most influential lobby in Washington, just after the American Association of Retired Persons.

"Ambassador Ben-Elissar called us to ask what the letter was all about," said Mr. Kohn, who insists that neither Mr. Netanyahu's office nor AIPAC initiated the letter, which was sponsored by Senators Joseph Lieberman, Democrat of Connecticut, and Connie Mack, Republican of Florida.

Asked why the ambassador would call Mr. Kohn for a briefing, rather than the senators, Mr. Kohn answered: "No one knows more about the Hill than us."

Few in Washington would doubt him. AIPAC, with more than 55,000 members and a budget of \$14.2 million, calls itself "America's pro-Israel lobby." Its influence is legendary, built on grass-roots political organization, timely research and a network of active, articulate members.

AIPAC is not a registered foreign lobby but an American organization that plays American politics without apology. Thus, it is sensitive to suggestions that it is too close to the Israeli government.

The spokesman said.

The flight crew brewed a package and noticed that the drink did not look right, an spokesman said. No passengers received it.

The flight was en route to Miami this month when the weather was found. American has a program to combat drug smuggling. "We spend millions of dollars to avoid this," the spokesman said.

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THE AMERICAS

Secret Exercise Finds U.S. Can't Cope With a Biological Terror Attack

By Judith Miller
and William J. Broad
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — On a bright spring day last month, 40 officials from more than a dozen federal agencies met secretly near the White House to play out what would happen if terrorists attacked the United States with a devastating new type of germ weapon, government officials say.

The results were not encouraging.

Under the scenario, terrorists spread a virus along the Mexican-American border, primarily in California and the Southwest. After doctors diagnosed the epidemic as smallpox, the dreaded killer once thought to have been eradicated, vaccines were rushed in to immunize the population.

But what appeared to have been smallpox turned out to be a hybrid whose hidden side caused profuse bleeding and a high fever for which there was no cure.

As the scenario unfolded, officials playing the role of state and local officials were quickly overwhelmed by a panicked population, thousands of whom were falling ill and dying. Discovering huge gaps in logistics, legal authority and medical care, the officials began quarreling among themselves and with

Washington over how to stem the epidemic. In truth, no one was in charge.

The outcome of the exercise surprised some participants but illustrated what others had long suspected: The United States, despite huge investments of time, money and effort in recent years, is still unprepared to respond to biological terror weapons.

The secret exercise, officials said, also underscored the need for a sweeping plan that President Bill Clinton is expected to approve this week. The goal of the two new "presidential decision directives," known as PDD-62 and PDD-63, is to enhance the country's ability to prevent chemical, biological or cyber-weapon attacks, and if deterrence fails, to respond more effectively to the mayhem.

Mr. Clinton's interest, especially in germ warfare, has been deepened by books, aides said. The president was so alarmed by one of them — a novel by Richard Preston titled "The Cobra Event" (Random House), which portrays a lone terrorist's attack on New York City with a genetically engineered virus — that he instructed intelligence experts to evaluate its credibility. Experts tend to disagree on the plausibility of such high-technology threats. But most agree that the danger will grow and that such an attack, if successful, could

be catastrophic.

Administration officials said the president had become increasingly worried by the idea of germ-wielding terrorists who might cripple the nation by sowing deadly epidemics.

Mr. Clinton's personal interest, officials said, has become a powerful force behind a series of secret federal meetings and directives meant to bolster the nation's anti-terrorism work. Mr. Clinton has also asked the National Security Council if more money is needed in this year's budget for anti-terrorism efforts.

During his presidency, terrorism has emerged as one of the country's thorniest security threats. In February 1993, a month after he took office, a terrorist bomb exploded under the World Trade Center in New York, killing 6 people and injuring 1,000.

In March 1995, a Japanese cult, Aum Shinrikyo, staged a stunning chemical attack on the Tokyo subway system, killing 12 and injuring 5,000. While the group used a lethal nerve gas, it turned out that it had also worked hard to make biological weapons, a realization that a senior administration official characterized as a "wake-up call."

Then, in April 1995, terrorists blew up the federal office building in Oklahoma City, killing 168.

Apprehension about germs grew later in 1995 as Iraq admitted that it had built and hidden a large biological arsenal and was prepared to use it during the Gulf War in 1991.

On June 21, 1995, Mr. Clinton signed PDD-39, which stated that the United States had "no higher priority" than stopping terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. More than 40 agencies vied for a piece of the billions of dollars that Congress began appropriating for anti-terrorism programs.

The General Accounting Office, in a report in December, faulted the government for a serious lack of coordination in efforts to counter the terrorist threat. For instance, it said there was no mechanism to prevent huge duplication of effort in some areas and inaction in others.

Richard Falkenrath, executive director of Harvard's Center for Science and International Affairs and author of "America's Achilles Heel" (The MIT Press), a new book on high-technology terrorism, also criticized the government's efforts. "There is still no overarching federal blueprint for response," he said in an interview.

The government concedes at least some of its failings. According to a draft of an interagency study, government

counterterrorism programs suffer from a lack of intelligence-sharing and a lack of information about what individual terrorists or groups may be plotting. The Washington Post reported Friday.

Federal quarantine laws turned out to be too antiquated to deal with the crisis and almost no state had serious plans for how to take care of the people it had isolated. In addition, what began as a domestic disaster rapidly spiraled into an international crisis as the epidemic threatened to spread into Mexico.

Mr. Clinton's deepening interest in such potential threats, aides said, led him to request a briefing by a panel of experts this month on the genetic engineering of biological weapons and related issues.

For 90 minutes on April 10, he questioned seven scientists and cabinet members about what a White House statement described as "opportunities and the national security challenges posed by genetic engineering and biotechnology."

Those familiar with the final report said the panel had urged Mr. Clinton, among other things, to stockpile and develop the capacity to make antidotes, vaccines and antibiotics rapidly, bolster federal funds for drug and medical research, strengthen the public-health sector and streamline the government system for detecting and managing biological crises.

4-Year-Old Shoots Playmate to Death

The Associated Press

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — A boy was fatally shot on his sixth birthday by a 4-year-old using a handgun that the boys found in a purse, the police here said.

Police officers and rescue workers found Carlos Gilmer's body in his house Saturday. Witnesses said the 4-year-old was playing outside shortly after the shooting.

The police said the 4-year-old played shot Carlos in the neck.

"They always used to come up to me going, 'Pow! Pow!'" Tabatha White, a 12-year-old neighbor, said of the boys. "He probably went up to Carlos and did the same thing."

Carlos's godmother, Beulah Lindsay, who neighbors said was his main caretaker, was preparing for Carlos's party at the time of the shooting.

The police would not say who owned the gun but said they were considering charging its owner under a state law that prohibits leaving guns accessible to minors.



Parents and pupils comforting each other before a counseling session at the Edinboro, Pennsylvania, school after a 14-year-old opened fire at a graduation ball.

Boy Kills Teacher in Dance Shooting

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

EDINBORO, Pennsylvania — A 14-year-old boy has been arraigned on murder charges after being accused of opening fire at an eighth-grade graduation dance here. A teacher was killed, and two other students and another teacher were wounded.

Andrew Wurst, a pupil at Parker Middle School, shot John Gillette, a science teacher, on a patio outside a banquet hall, walked inside and fired several more shots, left the building through a rear exit and was arrested shortly thereafter, according to Mark Zaleski, a police spokesman.

Mr. Zaleski said the boy, who was arraigned Saturday, faced several other charges, including three counts of aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, and firearms possession, and could be arraigned on those charges later.

Teenagers were dancing when the first of several booms rang out Friday night at Nick's Place, near Edinboro, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Pittsburgh.

Sobbing girls in satin dresses and terrified boys in neckties huddled out-

sides the hall. Some hid in a closet.

Adam Sarren, 15, said the shots sounded like a cap gun. "It was pretty horrible. It was like a nightmare," he said. "We were all scared and crying and praying."

In the past six months, four students and a teacher were fatally shot at a middle school in Jonesboro, Arkansas, three students were killed in a shooting at a high school in West Paducah, Kentucky, and two students were killed and seven wounded at a high school shooting in Pearl, Mississippi.

A month ago, Andrew Wurst joked about killing people and then committing suicide, according to two boys who described themselves as friends of his. Triston Lucas, 14, and Ben Mills, 13, said they did not take him seriously.

"He'd laugh when he said it. You couldn't really take him seriously," Triston Lucas said.

Both boys, who attended counseling sessions at the school Saturday, said Andrew Wurst did not know Mr. Gillette, 48. Andrew Wurst never said he planned to kill at

the dance, nor had he identified any targets, the boys said.

Mr. Gillette, a teacher for 27 years who had organized the dance, was shot in the head.

Two 14-year-old boys were wounded by gunfire; one was grazed across the abdomen and the other shot in the foot. Both were treated at a hospital and released. A female teacher was grazed by a bullet and did not need medical treatment.

Andrew Wurst, who carried a .25-caliber handgun registered to his father and a small amount of marijuana, was caught in a field behind the hall just after the shooting by the owner of Nick's Place, James Strand, who carried a shotgun.

Andrew Wurst, of nearby McKean, was charged as an adult with criminal homicide and jailed without bond.

School officials did not know what motivated the shooting.

On Saturday, hundreds of parents, students and teachers gathered at the school to meet with counselors. Outside the school, the district superintendent read a statement.

(AP, AFP, Reuters)

Away From Politics

• Rick Searfoss, commander of the space shuttle Columbia, repaired a critical air purifier after it failed and threatened to cut short Columbia's 16-day science mission. Columbia is due to land next Sunday. (WP)

• A study of thousands of nurses provides evidence that obesity greatly increases the risk of asthma, Harvard researchers say. The study found obese people at least three times as likely as the average person to get asthma. (AP)

• A motor yacht used by former President John F. Kennedy was sold for \$167,000 to an anonymous buyer at an auction in New York. (Reuters)

• A 10-mile section of the Mississippi River was closed to all boat traffic Saturday because 13 of 130 barges that had broken loose from their moorings were still missing. (AP)

• An apartment-house owner, Geoffrey Ferguson, 47, of North Carolina, was convicted of killing five men in a rent dispute in 1995 and burning down the building to cover up the crime. (AP)

• A man was charged with stealing more than 1,000 telephone calling-card numbers, many by looking over the shoulders of callers at a New York City railroad station, officials said. He was accused of using the numbers to make calls worldwide. (Reuters)

POLITICAL NOTES

Guest Named Paula Fails to Faze Clinton

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton was the most anticipated speaker Saturday night at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner, but the center of attention was in the back of the room, where Paula Jones dined and drew stares and conversation from a steady stream of curious bigwigs.

Mrs. Jones, a guest of Insight magazine, had last been in the same room with Mr. Clinton on Jan. 17, when she spent six hours in the office of Mr. Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, for Mr. Clinton's deposition in her lawsuit. Her sexual harassment case against the president was dismissed in Arkansas on April 1, but she plans to appeal.

Saturday, the paths of Mr. Clinton and Mrs. Jones did not cross.

Mr. Clinton did not directly mention Mrs. Jones in his humorous speech, saying he was blissfully unaware of the events of the last few months.

What Volunteers?

PHILADELPHIA — One year ago this week, three presidents, half the

cabinet, 30 governors and hundreds of other prominent Americans descended on gritty Germantown Avenue here to set an example of volunteerism that would spread across the nation and change the lives of millions of poor children.

More than 5,000 volunteers wielded trash bags and paint rollers to erase 8.5 miles (14 kilometers) of urban blight as the highlight of a three-day meeting aimed at creating a voluntary national commitment to help needy youth.

Now the administration marks the first anniversary of the volunteer effort and it is clear that the vast army of volunteers that would clean up blighted areas of America has not materialized.

The impact of the volunteer effort has been far from clear.

What is known in Philadelphia is that the most important goal, connecting needy children with caring mentors, tutors and coaches, is far from being realized. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Michael McCurry, the White House spokesman, after Buddy, the White House Labrador puppy, was neutered over the weekend: "Buddy is happy and doing well and is still very much an affectionate dog." (AFP)

AMERICAN TOPICS

Hispanic TV Turns Trendy

It would have been unimaginable a dozen years ago: the top-rated television station in a major American city broadcasting in Spanish.

WLTV of Miami, which is owned by the Univision network of Los Angeles, finished first in the February ratings "sweeps," beating six English-language stations and one Spanish-language competitor. It was the first time, The Washington Post reports, that a station broadcasting in a language other than English in a major American city had finished with the highest average ratings over a monthlong period.

The results in Miami illustrate two social trends. Most obviously, the Spanish-speaking population is growing rapidly, with Hispanics eventually expected to overtake blacks as the country's largest minority. In Miami, about 30 percent of 1.4 million television viewers are Hispanic.

Also, a television culture once dominated by three networks — ABC, CBS and NBC — has splintered into scores of pieces, as cable and satellite television offer the average viewer a choice of many dozens of channels.

Short Takes

The Sierra Club has voted down a controversial proposal that would have called for strict curbs on U.S. immigration. Members of the environmental club voted by 60 percent to 40 percent against the measure. Backers of the initiative argued that the country could not slow down the degradation of natural resources, halt urban sprawl and protect wildlife habitat without stabilizing population growth. The club's president, Adam Werbach, called the measure "horrendous," and threatened to resign if it passed. He and other opponents argued that the measure failed to look at the global impact of immigration restrictions, and said it would have painted the 550,000-member organization as elitist and racist.

San Francisco has set up emergency "pigeon patrols" after dozens of birds have been found poisoned by birdseed laced with strichnine. Animal control officers have seen pigeons plummet out of the sky after ingesting the poison. The patrols, which include homeless people, have so far had no luck. But the killings have brought a wave of sympathy for a few with few friends. The San Francisco Chronicle has even editorialized in the pigeon's support: "The city's domestic pigeons are not 'flying rats,' as some claim. Rather are they streetwise doves." It added that "merciless

Brian Knowlton

ornithophobes" should be tracked down and prosecuted.

Native Americans converged on Albuquerque, New Mexico, over the weekend in what organizers said was the world's largest powwow. The Gathering of Nations drew tens of thousands of Indians, including more than 3,000 singers and dancers from more than 700 North American tribes. "It's beautiful," said Princess Smilingwind of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe. "I see tomorrow's generation. I see proud families who took the time to teach their children their culture."

In 1982, when the event began, only 1,200 Indians took part.

In a novel expansion of laws requiring sex offenders to register with the authorities, Governor Thomas Carper of Delaware has signed into law a bill that requires sex offenders in the state to be so identified on their driver's licenses. Delaware is among the 48 states that require sex offenders to register with local law-enforcement authorities so neighbors can be notified of offenders living near them. But the new measure is the first of its kind in the country, The New York Times reports.

The American Civil Liberties Union, while expressing sympathy with the sentiment behind the law, protested that it was a violation of privacy.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

To Burmese Laureate, Junta Changed Only Its Name, Not Its True ColorsBy Christopher S. Wren
New York Times Service

RANGOON — The military junta that has governed Burma since 1988 recently shed its old identity as the State Law and Order Restoration Council, but its most celebrated opponent, the Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has yet to see any difference.

Any hopes that the name change in December to the State Peace and Development Council presaged a more tolerant regime have been stifled by the junta's unrelenting efforts to isolate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for advocating peaceful democratic change in the country that she and almost everyone else still call Burma, but which the junta calls Myanmar.

While she was under house arrest, her National League for Democracy won

the parliamentary elections in 1990 by a landslide. The military refused to step aside and has since decimated the opposition through arrest and imprisonment.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was spared harsher treatment, associates say, because many Burmese revere her late father, U Aung San, who led the country's struggle for independence from the British in the 1940s. But since her house arrest was lifted in July 1995, the junta has kept her cordoned off from popular support as well as from her family.

It has been more than two years since she saw her husband, Michael Aris, a British Buddhist scholar at Oxford University. The military will not grant him a visa. Her son Alexander has visited once since then, and her other son, Kim, twice, but they too were turned down last Christmas.

Her telephone is cut off. Friends say

that she supports herself by writing articles for a Japanese newspaper and gets donations of rice, cooking oil and other staples from supporters. Last March, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, 52, injured her neck and back falling down the stairs of her house. Friends say she has recovered.

Three American journalists who tried to see her earlier this month were blocked at a police checkpoint outside her home. In written replies to questions sent later through intermediaries, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that the road to her home has been sealed off for more than 15 months.

"Technically, I am not under house arrest because I can go out and some visitors can come in to see me," she wrote. "But as you can see for yourselves, the authorities do not hesitate to keep out visitors whom they do not wish me to meet."

"The authorities have also on several occasions prevented me from going to places they do not wish me to visit," she continued.

The military government has also intimidated more supporters in recent weeks. [A leader of the National League for Democracy, Daw San San, in her late 60s, was jailed for 25 years, dissidents said last week. She was sentenced after she took part in a BBC interview critical of the junta, although a spokesman for the State Peace and Development Council said it was because she had breached conditions under which she was released in 1992 from a previous 25-year sentence for treason.]

In March, U Soe Myint, a fellow member of the league's executive committee, was taken away for interrogation, and eventually released. About 40 student leaders were sent to prison for up to 20 years for allegedly plotting a

bombing. Other students and Buddhist monks were arrested for distributing leaflets that advocated democracy. Universities have been closed since December 1996 to prevent student protests.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called the latest arrests part of the consistently repressive climate. "Such things no longer surprise me," she wrote. "Only those who want to believe that there has been 'progress' in Burma would be surprised."

The crackdowns come at a time when Asia's financial problems have spilled into Burma. Widespread human rights abuses by the military led the United States to impose sanctions on Burma last year, but Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that the junta's economic ineptitude

"The whole economy was grossly mismanaged, even before the Asian financial crisis," she wrote. "The crisis

simply meant that things got from very bad to disconcertingly worse." In Rangoon, the military has erected billboards exhorting Burmese to "oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views — accusations leveled at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her fellow democrats."

The government was alarmed when representatives of Burma's ethnic minorities succeeded in visiting her Feb. 12. The controlled press accused the democratic movement of trying to sow unrest among the minority groups, which have fragile cease-fires with the government after years of armed insurgency.

A senior member of the National League for Democracy, who asked not to be identified, said that the league counted nearly 2 million members before the military's 1988 coup. With 2,000 members still in prison, he said, "We cannot say exactly how many have been left."

BRIEFLY

Seoul Prosecutors Can Question Former President, Minister Says

SEOUL — Justice Minister Park Sang Cheol gave his approval Sunday to prosecutors hoping to question former President Kim Young Sam over his alleged role in the South Korean financial crisis.

But Mr. Park told the Yonhap news agency that Mr. Kim would not be summoned for questioning at the prosecutors' office. "If it's needed, the prosecution can ask him to submit written statements or visit him at his house," Mr. Park said.

Mr. Park's comment followed a monthlong government investigation of policy blunders and alleged malpractice under the former president. (AP)

India Cracks Down on Tibetans

NEW DELHI — Indian authorities cracked down Sunday on Tibetans who have been on a hunger strike here since March 10, forcibly taking three of the strikers to a hospital.

The move came ahead of a planned first trip to India by a Chinese army chief, prompting allegations that New Delhi had buckled under diplomatic pressure. The hunger-strikers have been demanding freedom for their homeland from Chinese rule. (AP)

Albright to Head for China

BEIJING — The U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, is to arrive in China this week to lay groundwork for a June visit by President Bill Clinton.

Mrs. Albright, whose visit is planned for Wednesday and Thursday, will be the latest U.S. official to come to China in recent weeks seeking to build on the warming trend until the arrival of Mr. Clinton. She is expected to press China on human-rights issues and is also scheduled to travel to South Korea and Mongolia. (Reuters)

For the Record

A South Korean ship on Sunday left the southern port city of Pusan for North Korea with a second batch of food aid promised in Red Cross talks last month in Beijing. (Reuters)

President Jacques Chirac of France arrived in Tokyo on Saturday to start a five-day trip. Mr. Chirac is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Monday for discussions on the Asian economic crisis and bilateral issues. (Reuters)

Taleban and Rivals Vow To Seek End to Conflict

Warring Factions Open Peace Talks in Pakistan

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — UN-sponsored talks between Afghanistan's warring factions opened Sunday in the capital of neighboring Pakistan, with both sides pledging to seek a peaceful resolution to nearly a decade of civil war.

The delegates of the fundamentalist Taliban regime and its military opposition met all day at a government guesthouse for their first structured peace talks since the Islamic militia captured Kabul a year and a half ago.

The opening round of the preliminary talks, scheduled to last from three to five days, got hung up on how to constitute a representative council that would negotiate a permanent settlement. Taleban delegates insisted on including only Islamic scholars, while opposition representatives argued for a broader membership including other experts, sources said.

Other items on a provisional agenda, which has yet to be formally adopted, were a cease-fire, exchange of prisoners and removal of roadblocks to international humanitarian aid, according to James Ngorbi, the UN official presiding over the talks along with Ibrahim Saleh Bakr of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, who this month became the first American cabinet-level official to visit Afghanistan in more than two decades, won agreement from both sides on opening peace talks in Islamabad before Monday. The date marks the 20th anniversary of a Communist coup that led to two decades of warfare, first against the former Soviet Army and then among Afghan factions.

The U.S. involvement has distinguished the latest talks from previous rounds in the last decade that have not led to enduring peace. Agreements

reached in 1992 and 1993 quickly lapsed into more fighting.

On Saturday, Taleban forces began what the northern-based opposition described as a major but unsuccessful offensive along a military front line about 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of Kabul. That assault and exchanges of artillery barrages earlier in the week appeared to have violated an agreement, made with Mr. Richardson when he met factional leaders in Afghanistan on April 17, not to start military offensives before the talks began.

On Sunday, the leader of the Taleban's five-member delegation, Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, referred to violations of what U.S. diplomats had described as a "military standdown." The leader of the opposition's nine-member delegation, Fazl Hadi Shinwari, did not mention the Taleban's assault the day before. The delegations did agree to extend the moratorium on military offensives for the duration of the talks.

In their opening statements, both delegation leaders spoke of desire for peace, just as factional leaders have done on many occasions in the past. Mr. Mutawakil said that representatives from the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," as the Taleban leadership has renamed the country, "agree to work for the peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict." He added, "We are willing to do it."

Mr. Shinwari said that opposition leaders sought the "peaceful conclusion that everyone is expecting after 20 years" of warfare.

Mohammed Omar, the Taleban's top leader, suggested in a statement circulated at the talks that previous peace negotiations had failed because they were conducted in a political framework instead of a religious one.

Political dialogue "has not brought about any positive result," Mr. Omar said. "Nothing can bring about such a result except the decision adopted in accordance with the law of Almighty."



Mr. Mutawakil of the Taleban, left, shaking hands with Mr. Shinwari of the opposition in Islamabad on Sunday. Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan of Pakistan is with them.

5 Students Seized After Sumatra Clash

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MEDAN, Indonesia — Five Indonesian students were taken away by what student leaders said were plainclothes security officials and two others were injured in escalating protests calling for the resignation President Suharto, witnesses said Sunday.

The five students were attending a campus meeting Saturday in Medan, in northern Sumatra, when the unidentified men seized them, the witnesses said. The meeting had been called after a clash between students and the police.

"They were beaten on the campus by several men before they were taken away," a witness said.

They said that one student had been hit in the back by a rubber bullet and another had suffered

head wounds from police clubs. Also in Medan, students of the private Sumatra Utara Islamic University demonstrated to demand the return of two students allegedly missing after being beaten by police officers during earlier protests.

In Jakarta, the police detained about 40 students for several hours Saturday after preventing about 500 protesters from leaving the campus of Ibu Chaldun University.

At Maizam University on the island of Lombok, at least 10 students were reported to have been injured in clashes Saturday.

Witnesses said the police had fired tear gas and rubber bullets and used clubs against students who threw stones at them.

They said that one student had been hit in the back by a rubber bullet and another had suffered

mainly peaceful. (Reuters)

THAILAND: Mr. Clean Leads Fight on Political Corruption

Continued from Page 1

is deeply corrupt. Politicians almost openly buy votes. An official election commission estimated that political parties spent about \$1 billion to lure voters in the last national elections. Politicians often rewrite big public contracts to benefit themselves or their friends, and corruption scandals plague nearly every administration, critics say.

The best hope now for cleaning up the system may be General Seri.

His boyish face appears regularly on the front pages of newspapers, one day counting bundles of cash seized in a bribery investigation, another after interrogating an Interior Ministry official on charges of influence peddling. His name is associated with virtually every high-profile investigation of public officials.

And he has made it his mission to take on all kinds of corruption cases, from petty vote buying to the biggest financial scams. Among the most notable is a case involving illegal logging along Thailand's border with Burma that has implicated officials in three recent administrations.

He also oversees two dozen investigations against top officials, including a former governor of the Central Bank suspected of involvement in last year's failure of the Bangkok Bank of Commerce, a scandal that foreshadowed the failure of the whole financial system.

General Seri is also trying to make his Central Investigation Bureau independent of the regular police. He says that the police often fail to solve big crimes and are easily intimidated by the rich. He has also sought power vested in the Interior Ministry, to which he technically reports.

"No government agency should have the power to protect very important people," he said in an interview in his office, where a small mountain

of black-bound case files sat on his desk. "I should have complete authority to investigate any person, regardless of how influential."

He has been determined to attack corruption from the beginning. After a friend was killed by Communist insurgents, Mr. Seri, then a young local policeman, volunteered repeatedly for military missions to root out guerrillas, work that his colleagues shunned. In the 1980s, as a relatively minor superintendent, he challenged the underworld kingpin of Thailand's eastern seaboard.

By the time he was transferred to a senior police post in Bangkok in the early 1990s, he had developed his own code. He insists that his officers sleep two or three to a hotel room to save money when traveling, for example, and rejects even token gifts from well-wishers.

Such standards made him unpopular with his colleagues. He became even less so after he accused several of them, including his senior commander, of corruption.

Not surprisingly, General Seri has received death threats. In 1991, a bomb exploded under his desk at Bangkok headquarters. He avoided injury because he had stepped out to attend a meeting.

Just as General Seri brings fresh vigor to law enforcement, the new constitution is overhauling the laws themselves. It passed Parliament at the height of economic despair late last year, defying early predictions that it could never win official backing. It will force legislators to resign before they accept cabinet posts, replaces the appointed senate with an elected one and requires all elected officials to disclose assets before and after taking public office.

Still, General Seri puts faith in the power of example. He says he can deliver on at least one promise: "The police chief is clean."

hustlers, fixers, con men and New Age nuts: dreamers and agitators alike who come to its streets in search of "trophy experiences" and who find intrigue, trouble and occasionally renewal.

This hall of mirrors forms the backdrop against which Stone's hero, Christopher Lucas, and his friends will play out a deadly game of love and faith.

Along the way, they will be sucked into a dangerous religious and political plot involving gun running, drug smuggling and a threat to blow up one of Jerusalem's holiest sites; it is a plot that will not only claim several lives, but also threaten to explode the region into imminent violence and rage.

Because Stone takes so much time giving the reader a sense of the many groups jockeying for position in Jerusalem and Gaza, and describing the tense political situation (and the high stakes involved in his characters' high jinks), "Damascus Gate" gets off to a lumbering start.

Indeed, the first third of the novel is filled with exposition and explanations, lots of portentous mumbo-jumbo and labored descriptions of his characters' religious affiliations. One is constantly aware of all the research Stone must have done and his efforts to find a way to turn it into a coherent narrative drama.

As he has done so often, he begins by introducing the disparate members of his cast, cutting back and forth between individual story lines that will eventually converge so noisily by the novel's end.

The book's hero, Lucas, a free-lance journalist and lapsed Catholic, is a *familial Stonian* figure: a professional observer, brooding, displaced and more lonely than he would like to admit.

Once Stone has gone through the mechanical process of introducing his characters and putting various subplots into play, the book begins to take off. He is at his best when he's writing action scenes, depicting his characters in extremes and using his reporter's eye to conjure up the physical world around them.

The second half of the novel presents two dazzling set pieces: a harrowing trip through Gaza that results in a mob lynching and a final chase scene through the streets of Jerusalem in a last-ditch effort to prevent a bomb from going off.

Although it takes Stone too long to set up all the pieces of his story, the patient reader is eventually rewarded. The endgame he plays is masterly: thrilling, coiled and somehow both inevitable and surprising.

New York Times Service

BOOKS

DAMASCUS GATE

By Robert Stone. 500 pages. \$26. Houghton Mifflin.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

OST, disaffected, often desperate, Robert Stone's characters tend to gravitate toward hot, volatile corners of the world — Vietnam, Central America, the Middle East — where they find themselves falling victim to bad faith, bad karma and bad vibes.

They are people looking for love, money or drugs, the big score or the great escape. But they are also people in search of something larger: some intimation of hope or faith, some hint that there is more to life than the bump and grind of daily existence.

Those spiritual yearnings help propel the tricky plot of Stone's latest novel, "Damascus Gate," a flawed but often gripping thriller set in Jerusalem and Gaza against the backdrop of the *intifada*.

Stone's Jerusalem is a city of secret labyrinths and mysterious subcultures, a place of extremes where bizarre alliances are quickly formed and even more quickly dissolved, a realm where missionaries masquerade as fact and fiction are passed off as truth.

It is a magnet for pilgrims, tourists,

double was not for penalties but showed some high-card strength. South therefore bid again, choosing four notrump to allow for the possibility of five clubs if his partner held a different hand.

Against five diamonds, West made the obvious lead of a top heart, which proved fatal. He shifted to his singleton spade, but it was too late. The declarer, Christian Mari, won with the king and led the diamond 10. He guessed right by finessing when West played low. He continued with a second diamond, taken by the ace.

West, with no way to reach his partner's hand, led a second high heart. South ruffed, drew the remaining trump and reflected. West was sure to be short in both black suits, so he did not need

to risk a club fines

EUROPE

Seepage of Missile Technology From Russia to Iran Comes Under Fire

By Michael R. Gordon
and Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — A truck laden with 22 tons of stainless steel that could be used to make missiles has been intercepted on its way to Tehran, raising new questions about Russia's determination to end assistance to Iran's missile program.

U.S. officials warned the Russian authorities several days in advance that a shipment of steel, which they said was of a type particularly suited for use in making fuel tanks for Scud missiles, was expected to leave Moscow, based on U.S. intelligence reports.

But the Russians say that the U.S. information was not detailed enough and that they were unable to stop the truck in time. It was impounded in late March after leaving Russia when customs officials in Azerbaijan stopped it from crossing the border to Iran.

Russia's failure to stop the shipment has become an issue in a broader debate about Moscow's promise to clamp down on the sale of missile technology to Iran.

President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree in January tightening controls on the export of missile-related technology to Iran. Moscow says that it is doing its best to prevent the seepage of such technology to Iran and that the Americans are too quick to politicize the issue.

But U.S. officials say troublesome cases still remain. "It would not be accurate to say they are stonewalling us," a U.S. specialist said. "But it is a hard issue for them, technologically and politically. They want to preserve a relationship with Iran. Some of the cases have gone away, but others remain on the table for us to discuss."

The issue has important military implications for the Middle East, where Israel has expressed alarm that it easier for Iran to develop nuclear weapons, allegations that Moscow rejects.

But the flow of Russian technology to Iran's missile program has also been a cardinal worry.

Iran has begun a program to build a missile dubbed the Shahab 3, which has a range of about 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) — more than twice the range of a

Scud missile and long enough to reach Israel, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

The missile is based on a North Korean design, but Iran has also turned to Russia to develop the technology.

But the key question is whether Russia is cracking down promised.

"The 13 cases which our American colleagues have so nicely informed us of have been considered, and we have provided detailed explanations," Yuri Koptev, the head of the Russian space agency and the top Russian official on the missile issue, said earlier this year.

"In the cases where we saw some doubtful aspect, these contacts were severed."

But when Robert Gallucci, the special U.S. envoy on the missile issue, met with Russian officials this week, a number of cases remained unresolved. U.S. officials, for example, are concerned that Iranians are still receiving training in propulsion and guidance technology at Baikonur State Technical University in St. Petersburg and perhaps at the Moscow Aviation Institute.

The Russians have yet to complete their investigations of enterprises called Polys, which is suspected of providing navigation and guidance technology to Iran, and Ni Grafit, which makes material used to coat ballistic missile warheads. A shipment of the material from Ni Grafit was intercepted by the Australians on its way to Iran.

The Russians have taken some steps.

The government has expelled an Iranian student who was trying to buy missile technology and intervened to cancel an Iranian contract with NPT Trud, which makes missile engines.

U.S. officials say the case is more important as a political test of Moscow's will to act than for its military implications.

U.S. lawmakers, who have been briefed on the steel incident, portray it as an example of Russian incompetence or duplicity.

Russians say the critics are insensitive to the difficulties of preventing smuggling in a vast and unruly nation.

The case began when U.S. intelligence learned about the plan to smuggle stainless steel to Iran. The steel can resist high temperatures, and U.S. experts say they believe that Iran intended

to use it to make fuel tanks for Scud missiles. U.S. sources say it was to be transported by company called Moso.

U.S. officials alerted Russian intelligence in March that the steel was to be shipped. But U.S. officials concede that they did not know all the details.

The truck left Moscow several days later for the long drive to Iran and managed to get out of Russia successfully.

Azerbaijan notified the United States on March 24 that its customs officials had detained the truck on the Azerbaijan-Iran border.

Officials in Azerbaijan say the shipping documents misrepresented the type of steel. The shipper was identified as Europalas-2000, which U.S. officials say was a front company.

A sample of the steel was sent to the Americans for analysis. After Azerbaijan stopped the shipment, the Russian authorities arrested three men from Tajikistan in connection with the smuggling effort.

One American specialist said the case was complex. "It is not clear that we directed the Russians to the right place," he said.

BRIEFLY

Clash Breaks Out On Kosovo Border

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — The Yugoslav Army reported new fighting Sunday along the border of Kosovo Province with Albania.

The army said about 10 separatists had opened fire Sunday morning on border guards near Gorozup after ignoring orders to halt.

"Fire was returned and the Albanian terrorists fled back to the territory of the Republic of Albania in panic," the Pristina media center said, "leaving behind more than 20 cases of mines and explosives and other military equipment."

There were no reports of casualties in the clash, which could not be independently confirmed. The army said it had come under a four-hour mortar barrage Saturday night near Lake Radonjić dam and had returned fire. The army said it had suffered no casualties. (Reuters)

Swiss Banks Facing Criticism at Home

ZURICH — Big Swiss banks risk domestic criticism over negotiations starting Monday in Washington with the World Jewish Congress and lawyers for Holocaust victims and their relatives, who accuse the banks of hoarding funds deposited by Nazi-era victims.

Some Swiss commentators have questioned whether the banks are betraying Switzerland by acting on their own on a matter that affects the entire country.

"Paying back your debts is one thing," Sigi Feigel and Werner Stauffacher wrote in a comment published over the weekend by the conservative Neue Zuercher Zeitung. "Yielding to unjustified demands is another."

Mr. Feigel is honorary chairman of the Zurich Jewish community. Both men support a government plan to sell gold reserves and create a fund for victims of poverty and rights abuses. (Reuters)

Danish Union Sees Weeks-Long Strike

COPENHAGEN — A major strike starting in Denmark on Monday may last for two or three weeks, the country's top trade union official said Sunday.

Nearly half a million workers have been called out on a strike that is expected to bring most manufacturing, construction and transportation — including shipping and air traffic — to a standstill.

"I don't hope for it to go on for two or three weeks," said Hans Jensen, chairman of the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions. "but I think it will." He said employers had not responded to union offers of talks following workers' rejection of a proposed agreement reached last month. (Reuters)



NO CHERNOBYL — Belarusians in Minsk protesting the plant across the Ukraine border that spewed radiation 12 years ago Sunday.

Kiriienko Goes to Work on Cabinet

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — The new Russian prime minister, Sergei Kiriienko, worked on the outline of his cabinet over the weekend, put economic reform back on course after a monthlong government crisis that raised fears at home and abroad.

Russian news agencies quoted a high-ranking representative of the presidential administration as saying Sunday that Mr. Kiriienko, 35, who was confirmed by a reluctant Parliament on Friday, would present his list of ministers to President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin dismissed the cabinet of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on March 23, saying it had lost momentum on reform efforts, and asked Mr. Kiriienko, an energy minister new to political office, to form a new government.

A majority in the lower house of Parliament, the State Duma, however, saw Mr. Kiriienko as lacking in experience and overenthusiastic in his espousal of market economics, and the Duma refused twice to approve his nomination.

The chamber would have been auto-

matically dissolved if it had voted "no" again.

The vote Friday was 251 in favor of confirmation and 25 opposed. Mr. Kiriienko needed 226 votes to be confirmed.

More than one-third of the Duma members abstained.

Mr. Yeltsin described the vote as a victory for common sense.

"The policy you should be first of all industrial — the strategy must be economic and the course should be economic growth," the president said in a televised address.

Throughout his confirmation campaign Mr. Kiriienko refused to disclose names of future ministers. He has a plan to form a cabinet but will be under pressure from Mr. Yeltsin to act quickly and resolutely.

Aides to Mr. Yeltsin said that the Kremlin was allowing Mr. Kiriienko a free hand in choosing his government, brushing aside suggestions he would be little more than a "puppet" prime minister.

But the president has already named several members of the cabinet, confirming Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov, Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev

and Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov.

Mr. Yeltsin has appointed one of his allies, Sergei Stepashin, as interior minister.

He has also told Mr. Kiriienko to reduce by one-half the size of the government, which previously had nine deputy prime ministers and 24 ministers.

Attention was therefore focused on the economic portfolios. But there was no immediate word from Mr. Kiriienko's office about appointments.

Aides to the new prime minister said only that he was working on the government's structure, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

Mr. Yeltsin was expected to meet with Mr. Kiriienko at the Kremlin on Tuesday and might sign decrees appointing ministers by Wednesday, a senior Kremlin official told the Interfax news agency.

In a brief television interview Saturday night, the prime minister said he would concentrate mainly on the economy.

"We need concrete actions to move toward a stable economy," Mr. Kiriienko said.

(Reuters, AP)

VOTE: Kohl's Party Gets a 'Clear Slap' in German State Election and Far Right Makes a Big Gain

Continued from Page 1

milking the country's generous social welfare benefits.

Peter Hintze, general secretary of the Christian Democrats, acknowledged that voters delivered "a clear slap" at his party, but he insisted that the dismal showing would not alter its national campaign strategy nor affect its backing for Mr. Kohl, 68, in his quest for an unprecedented fifth term as chancellor.

For his part, Mr. Hoepner now faces the difficult dilemma of forming a government either with passive support from the reform Communists, or as part of a grand coalition with the Christian Democrats.

The German People's Union, known by its German initials as the DVU, was founded 10 years ago by a wealthy Bavarian publisher, Gerhard Frey. He lavished enormous sums of money in the Saxony-Anhalt campaign, spending as much as the other parties combined, according to state authorities.

Mr. Frey, 65, has declared his intention to build a powerful political base in the East by exploiting rampant frustration with joblessness and immigration, even though foreigners represent little more than 1 percent of the

population in the six Eastern states.

Posters and leaflets handed out by the far-rightists during the campaign called for immediate expulsion of "all foreign bandits" and "jobs first for Germans only." They also urged that foreign schoolchildren not be allowed to attend German schools and that all social spending be directed only for "German purposes."

Many German People's Union voters appear to be young people, confirming a belief by sociologists that as many as a third of East Germans between the ages of 15 and 25 show neo-Nazi and extreme-right sympathies.

Germany's Office for the Protection of the Constitution, a government agency that monitors extremists, condemned the party in a 1996 report for what was described as "anti-Semitic and racist tendencies."

While Mr. Kohl's party expected a poor result in the election Sunday, it was clear that many of its disillusioned supporters flocked to the far right rather than cast their ballots in favor of the Social Democrats.

Mr. Kohl's challenger in the September general election, Gerhard Schroeder, has pinned his hopes of becoming chancellor on creating a "new middle" by appealing to

disaffected Christian Democrats who yearn for fresh leadership.

In that light, the Saxony-Anhalt outcome suggests that Eastern voters who have soured on Mr. Kohl may not necessarily switch their loyalties to the Social Democrats.

Mr. Schroeder hinted Sunday night that a grand coalition with the Christian Democrats might be the best alternative in Saxony-Anhalt to combat the political ascendancy of the rightist extremists.

His support for such a broad alliance was cited by political commentators as evidence that he might now be more inclined to consider a governing partnership with the Christian Democrats, rather than with the idiosyncratic Greens party, if he wins the September national vote.

Kohl Blamed for Rise of Far Right

German opposition parties blamed Chancellor Kohl's government for the spectacular success of the extreme right in Saxony-Anhalt. Reuters reported from Bonn.

"This is a protest against the broken government promises of Helmut Kohl," Mr. Schroeder said.

He said the big losses made it clear that the

chancellor was deeply unpopular in East Germany and that he could not possibly win the federal election.

"He's been voted out of office in the East," Mr. Schroeder said in his home city, Hanover.

The Christian Democrats and their allies acknowledged they had suffered a defeat, but put the blame for the success of the extreme right at the door of the Social Democrats. They said the Socialists had made extremists acceptable by running a state government with the informal support of former Communists in Saxony-Anhalt for the past four years.

"Those who let a political force emerge on the extreme left have to expect that this will happen on the right as well," Finance Minister Theo Waigel said. The Social Democrats have "failed in this key issue of democracy," he said.

Mr. Hintze said the reason for the Christian Democrats' showing was the poor economic situation in Saxony-Anhalt.

But Mr. Hintze also noted the high level of fluctuation in voter behavior in East Germany. This showed there were plenty of undecided voters still to be won in the former Communist East, he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Big Euro Bills May Replace Dollar as Mob's Currency of Choice

By Sylvia Nasar
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The potential challenge that Europe's new single currency poses to the dollar's dominance of global trade and bond portfolios has been widely anticipated.

Largely overlooked, however, is another threat: the euro may edge out the dollar as the currency of choice in the world's huge underground economy and in the process end a profitable American monopoly.

The threat comes from a little-noticed decision by the European Monetary Institute to issue the euro in some very large denominations, including 100, 200

and 500 euro notes, equivalent to about \$110, \$220 and \$550 at the expected rate of exchange.

These denominations are intended to mirror those of the Deutsche mark and give the new currency a reassuringly familiar look to those with doubts about monetary union.

But the big bills, according to Kenneth Rogoff, an economist at Princeton University, will also have the presumably unintended consequence of offering drug lords, organized-crime bosses and other underworld figures — not to mention ordinary tax evaders — a superior vehicle for doing business.

"Giant bills will help the Europeans compete with the United States for these

"customers,"" said Mr. Rogoff. "We have these crummy \$100 bills, and they're going to have a \$500 bill. You'll be able to smuggle a million or in or out of the country in a purse instead of a suitcase."

Economists once estimated that just 10 percent of all currency in circulation was tied up in the underground economy. Now it turns out that 80 percent is closer to the mark. Most of it is in \$100 bills, which are the largest available U.S. denomination and now account for well over half the value of the nation's paper money.

American banks and businesses hold very little cash. American households are also loath to keep much of it lying around.

Yet, according to the Federal Reserve Board, there is enough currency floating around to make it appear that every American family of four has \$6,000 or so in cash stashed under the mattress, including three dozen \$100 bills.

Despite the proliferation of credit cards, automatic teller machines, and electronic funds transfers, the sea of cash has been growing much more rapidly than the nation's gross national product.

As the issuer of dollars, America has been making out like a proverbial bandit. With \$400 billion of its currency in circulation, the U.S. government is earning \$20 billion to \$24 billion a year, or the amount the government would have to

pay if all that currency had to be replaced with Treasury bonds paying between 5 percent and 6 percent interest.

Criminals prefer cash for the obvious reasons: It is anonymous, portable and easy to hide. For the same reasons, they prefer bigger bills to smaller ones. Until now, they have had an overwhelming penchant for dollars because there are so many of them, they are convertible anywhere, and they are, relatively speaking, inflation-proof.

But faced with the choice of an even better product, the euro, criminals may well switch. And without the underground economy, parts of the United States could see a dramatic decline in revenue.

U.S. Hostages In Colombia Were Scared But Not Hurt

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BOGOTA — The two remaining American hostages freed by leftist rebels in Colombia after 32 days said they were scared but not mistreated by their captors.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia released the hostages, Todd Mark and Peter Chen, on Saturday in a mountainous area of central Colombia near the community of Los Alpes, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Bogota.

The first report of the release came from the Nacional television network, which said one of its reporters had assisted in the release. The television journalist accompanying the freed hostages said the group had to elude army mortar fire while they were on their way to freedom.

The two Americans were in good health and said they had been treated well by their captors, the television station reported. They were taken by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the city of Villavicencio, and reporters said the Americans had already been flown to the U.S. Embassy in Bogota.

On Friday, the rebels released another American, Louise Augustine, 63, a former Roman Catholic nun and retired teacher. Thomas Fiore, another American, and an Italian, Vito Candela, who were seized along with the others on March 23, were freed this month.

The release of the hostages came after Colombian news media agreed to broadcast a six-point communiqué from the guerrilla group denouncing what it described as a long history of United States intervention in Colombia's guerrilla war.

Mr. Chen said the hostages were not mistreated but feared a confrontation with army forces that might have resulted in their deaths.

A "Comandante Romana" had at one point threatened to execute the captives if they turned out to be U.S. agents. The Americans had been on a bird-watching trip.

Mr. Mark said he had spent most of his captivity talking to his young rebel abductors about birds. "I think I bored them to death," he said. (AFP, NYT)



Schoolgirls performing Sunday in front of a portrait of Saddam Hussein. Nationwide observances are under way for his 61st birthday Tuesday.

BUNDES BANK: Members Reject Cut in Term for European Post

Continued from Page 1

Johriksen, as saying that splitting the term "would make a big dent in the advance trust in the euro."

Suggestions that the term might be split under an informal and possibly secret "gentleman's agreement" are meant to appease France, which insists that its central bank chief, Jean-Claude Trichet, deserves the powerful post.

The Bundesbank, along with the governments in Germany and most other EU nations, supports the former Dutch central bank chief, Wim Duisenberg, for the job. Mr. Duisenberg, a hard-line advocate of the Bundesbank's tight-money policies, currently heads the European

Monetary Institute in Frankfurt, the forerunner of the European central bank.

Otmar Issing, the chief economist of the Bundesbank, became the latest council member over the weekend to disparage efforts to split the term of the European central bank president.

The Maastricht Treaty calls for a non-renewable eight-year term as a safeguard for the independence of the president.

Mr. Issing noted, "The term is long enough to allow continuity, he said,

adding that the fact that the term was nonrenewable removed the temptation to resort to easy-money policies as a way to seek another term in the job.

"That is why the directors cannot be renamed," Mr. Issing said in an in-

terview published Sunday in the Berliner Zeitung. "To that, of course, belongs a properly long term. Eight years in this view is really the lower limit."

The Bundesbank's sponsorship of the project already was fragile. It hinged on a single sentence in a 35-page report that was otherwise critical of the euro's starting conditions. The launch of the euro is "justifiable" in terms of stability policies," the sentence said. Critics, however, noted that the single phrase was offset by so many doubts that the report could mean almost anything.

Most of the heads of the Bundesbank's regional branches, who make up the central bank's council, oppose a term division, Bild reported.

The eight compounds are among at least 48 new presidential sites built since the end of the Gulf War at a cost of as much as \$2 billion, according to diplomatic estimates. That figure does not count furnishings.

A UN official stationed in Iraq said the regime was "obviously wasting

money on palaces," although he did not agree that all suffering could be traced to the government.

The official said, for example, that child mortality was due in part to waterborne diseases such as typhoid that thrive because Iraq's sanitation system was seriously damaged during the Gulf War.

The problems with food are made worse by deeply ingrained inefficiency, envoys familiar with Iraq say.

"The system was hopelessly inefficient without a war," a diplomat said. "Add a war and the callousness of the regime, and you get dead and dying children."

Just how Iraq has spent a share of its limited resources was discovered this month by diplomats who escorted UN weapons inspectors through eight presidential palaces.

"They were beyond grandiose," a participant said.

That first inside look revealed palace compounds that contained a total of more than 1,000 buildings, with many more structures under construction.

The palaces had walls, floors and artistic flourishes crafted from elegant marble in many hues — material both telling and costly because marble is not indigenous to Iraq, the envoys said.

At the same time that Iraq was installing pumps for the palace moats and canals, the government said that it did not have such equipment for public sanitation sites in need of repair.

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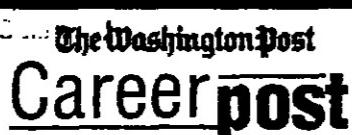
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THE INTERMARKET Continues on Page 13

EDITORIALS/OPTION

Herald Tribune
INTERNATIONAL
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST**Israel 50 Years On**

Fifty years ago, in the shadow of the Holocaust, a small, determined band of Jews realized a dream that had spanned 19 centuries of exile and harrowing hardship for the Jewish people. They founded the country of Israel, beginning a remarkable epic of nation-building and survival that is one of the stirring sagas of the 20th century.

As the 50th anniversary approaches this week, the world marvels at the faith and fortitude that have not only sustained Israel through five turbulent decades but brought it within reach of a new era of peace and prosperity. With wise leadership in Israel, and continued U.S. support, Israel can reach that promised land.

Few nations have endured so much turmoil in their early years.

Israel's founding brought the first of four wars in which outnumbered Israeli forces defeated or held at bay the armies of Arab neighbors intent on extinguishing the Jewish state. Israel in those embattled decades became synonymous with military strength and agility and the daring leadership of generals like Moshe Dayan and Yitzhak Rabin. The Six-Day War in 1967, when Israel swiftly crushed the military forces of Syria, Egypt and Jordan, and the commando raid at Entebbe, Uganda, in 1976 that rescued hijacked hostages are still studied at military academies today.

Israel's understandable preoccupation with security also brought mistakes and excesses. The 1982 invasion and occupation of Lebanon produced the slaughter of Palestinian refugees by Israel's Christian Lebanese allies, a massacre that nearby Israeli forces did nothing to stop. Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank has often been harsh.

Despite war, and a scarcity of water and other resources, Israel built an economy that rivals Western Europe in per capita wealth and technical sophistication. Tel Aviv became a hub of modern architecture and commerce. Successive waves of immigration multiplied Israel's Jewish population almost eightfold to 5 million, second only to that of the United States.

In a politically barren region where many countries are ruled by despots and autocrats, Israel created a vibrant democracy in which rival parties and political leaders competed openly for power but never lost sight of their common goals. Israel had the good fortune to produce strong, visionary leaders like David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin.

But Israel's defiant idealism and unity of purpose have recently yielded to a painful if unavoidable period of introspection and uncertainty. Heroic wars of national survival have given way to frustrating and divisive peace negotiations with the Palestinians and a wave of terrorist attacks in Israel.

Israel, in essence, is grappling in

new and more nuanced ways with the issue that more than any other has defined its life: how best to assure its security, even its survival.

Few nations since the end of the World War II have faced the lethal, unremitting threat that has stalked Israel since its birth. Even today, with a patina of peace in the Middle East, Israel must maintain the military might to defend itself and to prevail against an array of Arab enemies.

But now, for the first time, Israel can also secure its survival through peace. Finding the right balance between strength and diplomacy is the greatest challenge that Israel confronts.

For a country that has fought so hard just to stay alive, the idea of peace may seem a mirage. But the end of the Cold War, the opening of markets, and new technologies and a thirst for peace among both Israelis and Palestinians present an opportunity for negotiated stability that Israel should seize. It is the gateway to a time of tranquility that all Israelis seek.

As Israel marks this anniversary, it is also struggling to decide what kind of state and society it wishes to be. The founding years when sandal-clad settlers pouring off steamships turned the deserts green and invested all their energy and idealism in their kibbutzim are now a romantic but fading memory. Waves of immigration have transformed and shaken Israeli society.

Tensions between Orthodox and secular Jews have increased, hundreds of thousands of Russian immigrants are demanding a place in Israel, and the political divisions that flow from these demographic trends have eroded the common purpose that long unified the country.

One hallmark of Israel has always been that secular and religious communities could live and work together toward the goal of building a Jewish state. That required the mingling of profoundly different peoples and beliefs in ways that promoted the country's welfare without homogenizing the culture. Today that social contract is fraying.

No return is possible to a simpler time. Israel must learn to manage its diversity and to draw strength from it. Those so passionately opposed to their neighbors for religious, political or ethnic reasons need to recognize that unbridgeable divisions ultimately produce political paralysis, a condition that Israel cannot afford.

Reaching a state of equilibrium is essential not only for Israelis. Israel is more than a country. It is an idea that inspires millions of Jews around the world. From the ruins of Europe and the gas chambers of the Holocaust, from America, Russia and dozens of other lands, an indefatigable people created a new country sustained by an ancient faith. A half-century later, there is much to celebrate.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Yes, Enlarge NATO

The NATO enlargement battle is coming to its conclusion. Head counts point to Senate ratification of this weighty and far-reaching Clinton administration initiative. Intellectually if not politically, however, there is still a feeling that the result could go either way. The debate itself has been faulted, by the likely losers, for lacking in rigor. In fact the issue has been treated comprehensively, if not exhaustively. The chief lingering questions bear on the purpose of expanding the West's prime defense alliance and on the risks of possibly straining Russia's commitment to a moderate policy in the process.

Expansion of a defense alliance, in peacetime, is unavoidably controversial. The lack of a visible security threat puts the burden on the enlargers. But the case for enlargement is strong.

Stalin divided Europe. The outline of a Soviet, now Russian, buffer zone remains. The democratic countries in this gray zone feel exposed to an eventual restoration of Russian power and to other contingencies yet unshaped. They reasonably aspire to a settled place in NATO. The American interest in welcoming them lies in reducing unpredictability and instability in an arc that has generated the century's major wars. The scant current likelihood of an actual danger makes it smart and cheap to buy the extra security insurance now.

It is not persuasive to argue that the security integration of Western and Central Europe is worth any geopol-

itical price, even the estrangement of a moderate democratic Russia. No serious person addressing Russia's current weakness can want to build in a historic grievance. Russia's unhappiness with expansion, however, need not disable the project. Part of Russia's necessary post-Cold War evolution requires it to consider the (to it) novel idea that neighbors have a right to a national orientation of their own choosing.

Russia needs strategic stability, arms control and the other fruits of a sensible national policy as much as the West does. But the West cannot remove Moscow of its responsibility to make its own match of politics and policy. Especially when NATO has gone to extreme lengths to alter the alliance's procedures and its very structure in order to ease Moscow's enlargement fears.

These questions are important. What it comes down to is the strengthening of the new post-Cold War Europe. Right now there are two kinds of democracies in Europe, one sheltered by NATO in the West, the other exposed to strategic misfortune in the East. The Cold War was fought essentially to erase the difference between the two parts of a continent whose kinship and culture make it a central, continuing concern of American foreign policy. The addition of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic serves an American interest and obligation of the first order.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Herald Tribune
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Russia's Young Democracy Passes Another Test

By Fred Hiatt

WASHINGTON — President Boris Yeltsin once again traveled to his favorite spot — the brink of catastrophe — and once again returned triumphant. Now he faces what has always been a far more painful challenge for him: the everyday routine of governing the ungovernable.

First the good news. In the month since Mr. Yeltsin fired his long-serving, loyal prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and nominated a young technocrat in his stead, Russia's young democracy has faced another in its series of periodic tests. Once again, it passed.

Despite everything you may have read about constitutional breakdowns and mafia oligarchs and unbridled czarist ambitions, the system worked more or less as it was supposed to, and as it would in other democracies.

Politicians in Parliament bargained and bluffed and blustered. They checked the polls from back home. And in the last minute they confirmed Sergei Kiriyenko, 35, thereby averting dissolution and early elections.

Why did Mr. Yeltsin do it? His March 23 order dismissing his cabinet came as a shock to almost everyone. Many saw the move as irrational, and were quick to attribute motives: boredom, impetuosity, a thirst for unchallenged power. There is some evidence for all three.

Mr. Yeltsin's history shows a pro-

pensity to shake things up from time to time. His initial announcement that he would name himself acting prime minister, repudiated once he was told that such a move would be unconstitutional, suggests at the least, that the move had not been fully scrubbed in a comprehensive interagency Kremlin review.

And Mr. Yeltsin consistently has slapped down aides who grew too uppity. Mr. Chernomyrdin for most of his half-decade in office was self-effacing. Late he had been puffing himself up and acting like a presidential candidate. He paid the price.

But those explanations are not necessarily sufficient, nor do they mean that Mr. Yeltsin's act was totally irrational. He offered reasoning that merits attention. Mr. Chernomyrdin was "solid and reliable," he said, but lacked "dynamism, initiative, new viewpoints, fresh approaches and ideas."

Mr. Yeltsin is looking toward 2000, when his second term ends. If his health holds up, he either will wriggle through a loophole in the constitution and seek a third term — which would be a grave setback to democratic development — or he will nominate a candidate who will extend his legacy. A minimum requirement will be a successor who does not seek to put him in jail.

But the president understands that no liberal, pro-reform candidate is likely to be elected president if Russia's economy does not improve in the next two years. And that will require, as Mr. Yeltsin also said on March 23, "making economic reforms more energetic and effective."

Mr. Chernomyrdin was not up to that task. Mr. Yeltsin's critics say he will miss Mr. Chernomyrdin's stability and his good relations with the Communist-dominated Parliament, and perhaps he will. But Mr. Chernomyrdin's stability was merely an avoidance of reform, and he got along with Parliament because he rarely pushed important legislation.

Will Mr. Kiriyenko — ex-Young Communist, ex-banker, ex-oilman — do any better? Can a bland provincial with only a year's experience in Moscow (now in line to become acting prime minister) should Mr. Yeltsin die in office) jump-start reforms?

Some early signs are encouraging. Mr. Kiriyenko handled himself deftly during his monthlong confirmation fight, consulting respectfully with opposition leaders without, apparently, giving too much away.

For economic advice he has turned to Mr. Yeltsin's battle-tested reformers — Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov and Yegor Gaidar.

But no matter how deft and pru-

nipled Mr. Kiriyenko proves himself to be, and even if Mr. Yeltsin now departs from his usual pattern and remains fully engaged and supportive, Russia will not break through into the daylight of clear economic reform and rapid growth. Russia is not Poland. It is vaster and more isolated, its communism was more deep-rooted, its economy more militarized and centralized.

Its people are far more divided.

Many Russians want the right to buy and sell farmland; many Russians view that as a violation of all that is sacred.

Many want to reach out to the West; others remain deeply suspicious.

Those deep divisions are reflected in Parliament, which, all talk about unchecked presidential power notwithstanding, has shown the muscle to block land reform, tax reform, arms treaties with America and more.

Russia's functioning democracy, in other words, is one reason its reforms will not be swift and unchallenged.

Playing by democratic rules; modest, uneven progress toward a liberal economy — for anyone not expecting miracles, these together would constitute success in Russia today. Mr. Yeltsin and the Parliament so far have played by the rules. Now it is up to Mr. Yeltsin and his new prime minister to give at least a modest boost to long-stalled reforms.

The Washington Post.

Choice for Sharon: Will It Be Redemption or Revenge?

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — A fascinating story is unfolding in Israel — the story of Ariel Sharon, the oldest of Israeli warhorses, and his relationship with Benjamin Netanyahu.

Whether Prime Minister Netanyahu can close a deal with Yasser Arafat when they meet in London on May 4 may depend on how the story between him and Mr. Sharon ends.

Our story opens with Mr. Sharon, 70, walking the hills of the West Bank, each rock of which he knows, wondering whether he should give his stamp of approval to the next phase of Israeli withdrawals.

The Americans and Palestinians want a 13 percent withdrawal. Mr. Netanyahu hints that he will settle for 11 or 12. Mr. Sharon says 9 percent and not an inch more. Without cover from Mr. Sharon, it will be difficult for Mr. Netanyahu to move.

Mr. Sharon is still Mr. Security for many Israelis. He is the last of the Israeli leaders

who were around in 1948, when black was black and white was white, and when there was no ambivalence about who were the victims (Israelis) and who had to win (Israel).

For many Israelis, only people like Mr. Sharon who were forged in a moment of clarity can be relied upon in murkier times. There is part of the Israeli myth that is still cowboys versus Indians, and Ariel Sharon is the last old sheriff from Dodge City. If he says 13 percent, it's O.K., it's O.K.

Many in Israel believe that his deep quest for redemption could motivate him to play such a historic role. He is still carrying a mark of Cain for his role in the 1982 Lebanon war. An Israeli commission declared that he bore "indirect responsibility" for the massacre of Palestinian civilians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut.

To remove that stain, many believe he is ready to play Moshe Dayan to Mr. Netanyahu's Menachem Begin. It was General Dayan, after bungling the 1973 war, who served as Mr. Begin's foreign minister, paving the way for peace with Egypt.

But will Mr. Sharon play that role? Part of him surely wants revenge on Mr. Netanyahu for past humiliations. And part of Mr. Sharon also must resist giving the Israeli peacemakers what they want, which is affirmation that they were right about the need for recognizing the Palestinians, when for so long they insisted that he was all wrong.

And there is part of Mr. Sharon that always wants to capture just one more hill. For him that is what a real Zionist does. That is why he is attracted to the extreme ultra-Orthodox and frontier settlers, who are always ready to climb one more hill.

Therefore, can someone like him make the transition to a belief that Israel can both survive and thrive without catering to these extremes?

That was the transition that Moshe Dayan, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin made.

Mr. Rabin embodied the center between those extremes — a center which said that Israel does not need the constant heroics of peace with Egypt.

But will that teach them that despite Israel's enormous power, without peace a lot of Israelis would continue to die. Sharon never had that moment of fear in war. I think he was personally more courageous than Rabin or Dayan, but that may be liability, because not to know fear in war is not to know the need for civic courage in peace."

And that is why our story must end as it began, with questions. Does Ariel Sharon just want to meddle, or make history? Can the man who climbed every other hill now climb the highest hill of all — himself? //

The New York Times.

Peace and Belligerent Settlements Are Not Compatible

By Mohammad Tarbush

GENEVA — While recently driving around Israel and the occupied territories of the West Bank, I felt like a character out of Alain Renais' latest film, "On Connaît la Chanson." "Look what they've done to my land," I wanted to sing.

But my voice, feeble at the best of times, is stifled by a cocktail of anger and sorrow. I pull off the small Beitaith-Tarqumya road and sit for hours contemplating the scene.

It must have been in those gentle hills I am now facing which Arthur Stanley, canon of Canterbury and professor of ecclesiastical history at Oxford, described in 1858:

"The hills, except where occupied by vineyards and olive groves, are covered with disjointed rocks and grass, such as brought back dim visions of Wales. I am struck by what is...

the umpteenth time, yet it is with disbelief that I take in their beauty. Reality clashes with the distorted images that keep surging in my head.

When Palestinian reality was not distorted conceptually, it was literally wiped out by the creation of new facts.

Creating facts, often by demolishing ancient ones, is a long-standing policy consciously adhered to by all governments of Israel since the creation of the state 50 years ago. As a result of this policy, some 400 Palestinian villages are there no more.

During the last 30 years, the destruction of villages was complemented by frantic construction of settlements, the most notable example being Gillo, built on a confiscated site where until 1967 lay the picturesque Palestinian villages of Beit-Safafa and Sharafat.

These settlements are obstructing the peace process and tearing apart the harmony of the landscape. The Holy Land, which ought to be preserved as a unique country, is quickly becoming yet another conglomeration of urban centers in a world not at all lacking in such ugly creations.

The whole world, including half of Israel, is against the settlements.

Even if Benjamin Netanyahu were to withdraw his troops

from all of the occupied territories, these symbols of dominance and defiance would always stir memories of a painful occupation.

As every schoolchild should know by now, Israelis and Palestinians are condemned to live peacefully together. But settlements and peace do not go together.

Given their exclusive roads and strategic locations, the settlements are perceived by the Palestinian population as military barracks.

For the peace process to really take off, these colonies must go the way of the Berlin Wall and Lenin's monuments. They should be razed to the ground. Armies dismantle their encampments when they leave.

In their place, a million olive trees, preferably Romani, should be planted — a million permanent symbols of peace.

The writer, a banker, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

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Rate	Interest	Term	Interest	Term	Interest	Term
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72%	72%	1 year	72%	1 year	72%	1 year
74%	74%	1 year	74%	1 year	74%	1 year
76%	76%	1 year	76%	1 year	76%	1 year
78%	78%	1 year	78%	1 year	78%	1 year
80%	80%	1 year	80%	1 year	80%	1 year
82%	82%	1 year	82%	1 year	82%	1 year
84%	84%	1 year	84%	1 year	84%	1 year
86%	86%	1 year	86%	1 year	86%	1 year
88%	88%	1 year	88%	1 year	88%	1 year
90%	90%	1 year	90%	1 year	90%	1 year
92%	92%	1 year	92%	1 year	92%	1 year
94%	94%	1 year	94%	1 year	94%	1 year
96%	96%	1 year	96%	1 year	96%	1 year
98%	98%	1 year	98%	1 year	98%	1 year
100%	100%	1 year	100%	1 year	100%	1 year

10. *Leucania* *luteola* (Hufnagel) *luteola* Hufnagel, 1808. *Leucania luteola* Hufnagel, 1808. *Leucania luteola* Hufnagel, 1808.

Tokyo's Stimulus Plan Doesn't Excite Markets

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Japanese call their government's repeated efforts to get the economy moving "strip-tease policy," according to Philippa Malmgren, a Bankers Trust Co. in London — but no one on foreign-exchange markets seems to be getting excited by it.

Japan's cabinet approved its largest economic-stimulus package so far Friday, a combination including tax cuts and public-works spending with a total value put at 16.6 trillion yen (\$1.28 billion). But only the possibility of yet another package, or the fear of another bruising round of official intervention to keep asset prices where Tokyo wants them, inhibits investors from acting out their disapproval by dumping yen wholesale.

Economic Plan for Japan Is Likely to Preoccupy OECD Meeting

PARIS — Japan's latest economic revival plan is expected to dominate the agenda at a meeting of the 29-country Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development starting Monday.

What promised at first to be a rather realistic debate on Asia's financial crisis has evolved into a chance for European finance ministers to discuss Tokyo's blueprint for resuscitating the world's second-largest economy.

Diplomats in Paris said before the talks that some would be seeking "strong language on demand-led

The dollar finished last week at 131.25 yen, down 0.4 percent from the previous week.

Nevertheless, Ms. Malmgren said, a further depreciation of the yen is inevitable.

In her view, the 7.7 trillion yen in spending on public works in the latest

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

package is an impressively large figure, but only because it is not included in the calculation of the government's deficit under the Fiscal Consolidation Act.

That law, which requires a deficit no larger than 3 percent by 2003, keeps Tokyo from spending its way to an economic recovery. Although the government agreed Friday to delay that deadline until 2005, Ms. Malmgren said the un-

derlying question about its true intention remained unanswered: Is its main aim to control the deficit or to fix the economy?

Robert Feldman at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in Tokyo said the stimulus plan "at best stops the deflationary spiral and offers protection against the worst of the downside." But, he said, "This is not the stuff on which a long-term upgrade of the Japanese economy is made." He said the dollar was headed to 140 yen.

Even Brendan Brown, a London-based analyst at Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank Ltd., who warns against underestimating how much such a large spending package could spur a recovery, sees the yen weakening.

"The exchange rate is no longer the issue," he said. "So long as Japan is doing what the international community

has asked it to do, and so long as the exchange rate is not manipulated, the market can climb to 140 yen and it would be no big deal." Yen weakness will be driven by huge capital outflows from Japan in search of higher yields in U.S. and European markets, he said.

But Jim O'Neill of Goldman, Sachs & Co. in London cautioned against assuming a sharp sell-off of the yen. Although questioning whether the package can trigger a self-sustaining recovery, he asked why the Bank of Japan needed a record \$200 billion in reserves.

"They could be halved and Japan would still have the largest ratio of reserves to imports of any other G-7 country," he said, referring to the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations.

By running down the reserves, he said, Japan could affect the foreign exchange market, hold the dollar within a range of 127 yen to 133 yen and "buy time for a new package of more convincing measures" after elections in July for the upper house of the Diet, Japan's Par-

liament.

■ Israel Plans New Deregulation

The Israeli government plans to announce further steps Tuesday in its strategy to ease restrictions on shekel trading as part of its policy of opening the economy, Bloomberg News reported Sunday from Jerusalem.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman will announce the steps, which will apply to individual Israelis only, at a meeting of the parliamentary Finance Committee, a spokesman said. He said other details such as rules governing foreign and institutional investors would come later.

IMI and San Paolo Set Terms of Merger

Bloomberg News

MILAN — Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino SpA and Istituto Mobiliare Italiano SpA agreed Sunday to the final details of their 16.7 trillion lire (\$9.39 billion) merger, creating Italy's largest commercial banking company and the nation's second-biggest securities house.

San Paolo agreed to offer IMI shareholders 1.045 of its own shares for each IMI share outstanding, valuing them at 27,836 lire apiece after the payment of 1997 dividends, or a 4.3 percent premium to IMI's stock price Friday. The terms give IMI 44.7 percent of the new company and San Paolo 55.3 percent.

Together, the combined bank, to be called San Paolo-IMI, will have about 350 trillion lire in assets, 1,413 branches, 25,000 workers, and 100 trillion lire of funds under management.

The San Paolo-IMI combination, proposed late last year, was the first of a series of recent large mergers to have swept Italy's banking industry, which faces increased competition from foreign banks with the advent of the single currency in 1999.

IMI's chairman, Luigi Arcuti, is expected to be confirmed as the combined bank's chairman at San Paolo's shareholders meeting in Turin on Thursday. An IMI director-general, Rainer Masera, and San Paolo's chief executive, Luigi Maranzana, are expected to be named co-chief executives.

IMF: Squeeze on Funding

Continued from Page 11

for extra cash, first relying on a \$25-billion international credit line the United States and other wealthy countries have pledged, then turning to other sources.

"They would have to go around having in hand and try to put something together," said Morris Goldstein, a scholar at the Institute for International Economics, a Washington think tank. "They can always do some kind of ad-hoc arrangement, drawing on whatever the regional 'Big Daddy' is." That happened in 1995 during the Mexican peso crisis, when the U.S. Treasury provided Mexico with an emergency loan of \$1.2 billion.

In other words, there still could be an international safety net to protect against crises, but it would be a considerably flimsier one than has existed in the past.

Political opposition runs high in the United States to lending gigantic amounts of money directly to other nations, and other rich countries such as Japan or Germany would presumably be reluctant to provide funds in the absence of U.S. leadership.

Paradoxically, another reason the IMF funding legislation has lost support in Congress is that the Asian countries rescued by the IMF have stabilized.

"Until a few weeks ago, there was this sense of crisis and fear among Republicans that if something went wrong in the financial markets, they would be blamed," a former IMF official said. "But now there's a sort of 'why-bother' attitude."

What Momentum Has Going for It

By Arienne Weintraub
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It would be difficult to find two more cosmopolitan stock-pickers.

Henrik Strabo, 38, a native of Copenhagen, moved to the United States as a teenager to attend the University of Washington and decided to stick around.

Mark Kopinski, 41, took a different route, leaving his home near Chicago in 1973 to become an exchange student in Kariya, Japan. He liked it so much that he did not return for quite a while either, after living in Tokyo for 10 years.

But ask these globetrotters how their American Century-Twentieth Century International Discovery fund has managed to achieve its white-hot performance, and the impassioned response has nothing to with their worldliness.

Instead, they cite their absolute belief in the power of momentum investing: the much-criticized practice of piling into stocks of companies whose profits are on the upswing.

"Whether it's a software company or a steel company or a consumer company or an auto company, we're looking for earnings growth," the usually mild-

mannered Mr. Strabo said as he pounded the table. "We firmly believe that there's nothing like a couple of good earnings announcements to get these stocks to move."

It is likely that Mr. Strabo and Mr. Kopinski are making believers out of their investors. For the three years that ended April 17, the fund had an average annualized return of 30.1 percent, compared with just 13.5 percent for its peer

INVESTING

group of international stock funds, according to Morningstar Inc., the financial publisher in Chicago.

The momentum label, of course, is seldom meant as a compliment.

First, critics complain that by paying scant heed to macroeconomic conditions, a momentum fund cannot pick a turnaround situation in the offing. But Mr. Kopinski contended that the fund did exactly that by looking at what he called "micro-industry" statistics such as department-store sales and machinery orders.

Then there is the issue of wild volatility, which critics say is characteristic of the momentum style of investing. Mr. Kopinski denied that his fund was more

risky than rival offerings. According to Morningstar, the fund's three-year standard deviation, a common measure of volatility, is 14.5 percent, just slightly greater than that of its peers.

While other international funds often balance their portfolios on the basis of which countries are the strongest economically, Discovery's managers would rather spend their time sifting through earnings reports.

This intense focus on individual companies lets them spot trouble before many top-down strategists do, they said. A recent example was the Asian market plunge last year.

"I think a lot of people were positive about Asia because they fell into what I call the GDP-growth trap," Mr. Strabo said. "They were saying, 'these economies are growing 6 percent a year or more, so it has to be a great place to invest,' which is simply not true."

"What we saw in Asia some time ago was margin coming under pressure and very consistent deceleration in earnings."

The fund had 18.5 percent of its assets in Asia at the beginning of 1997. By September, as the Asian economies started their meltdown, Discovery had

whittled that down to just 6.1 percent, having shifted much of its money to Europe, where it now invests 80 percent of its assets.

Privatization and the pending introduction of a common currency in Europe have stimulated growth in several industries, notably information technology.



Henrik Strabo, left, and Mark Kopinski, co-managers of the American Century-Twentieth Century International Discovery mutual fund.

"We're seeing the telcos, utilities, airports and so forth being privatized, and as that process goes through, those companies will need to become more efficient, which means they'll be using more technology," Mr. Strabo said. "Also, the common currency requires a lot of preparation. That creates huge opportunities for technology companies."

WINDOWS: Control of Desktop

Continued from Page 11

told investigators they worry that speaking out could harm their relationship with Microsoft, the sources said.

Compaq Computer Corp., which offered an "Activity Manager" shell on some of its Presario models until early last year, said it removed the program because of "customer feedback."

But executives at two other PC makers, who asked not to be named, said they were upset with the start-up restriction but were unable to get Microsoft to change it. The executives said shell programs were a key way to differentiate their machines from those of their competitors, particularly on store shelves.

One of the executives said his company wanted to add a pop-up menu that would appear the first time the computer starts, to be followed by a shell program for successive start-ups, but dropped the idea when Microsoft opposed it.

"We don't want to rock the boat," the executive said.

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Continued on Page 15

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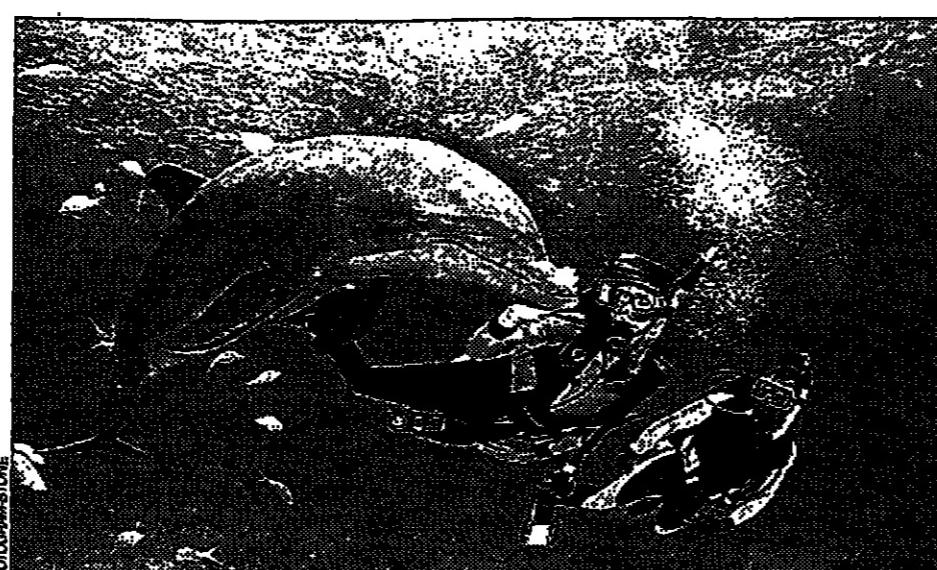
GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE NATURAL

The outdoors is one of the greatest of classrooms.

It's one thing to have environmental ideals, but how many people actually do anything about it, aside from recycling their trash? The good news is that it is possible to learn about and even have a positive impact on the environment while having a good time during an adventurous vacation trip to an exotic location.

Many companies are now offering such holidays.

Those with a metaphysical bent might enjoy the customized excursions in Hawaii offered by Dolphin Journeys, run by Nancy Sweat (aka Coral Grace), a geologist who discovered the "healing powers" of the Big Island while recovering them from an automobile accident. Ms. Sweat, better known as Nancy, who calls herself the "pooch leader," takes visitors on a four-hour swim with the dolphins, snorkeling at Honauau and on pilgrimages to the "goddess of fire" at the active Halemaumau



Weekend, flippers-on dolphin seminars are available in Hawaii.

Going it alone Those who are allergic to groups but who nevertheless want some guidance in planning a "green" trip might want to turn to EarthWise Journeys, based in Portland, Oregon.

EarthWise provides complete trip coordination for independent travelers, special interest groups, families, students and adventurers of all ages," says Director Barbara Canavan.

EarthWise also acts as a clearinghouse for other travel organizers, and can put clients in touch with the right

one for such vacation adventures as doing marine mammal research in various locations around the world, visiting the wetlands and wilderness of Botswana and Namibia, or volunteering to help preserve Turkey's environmental and cultural heritage, to give just a few examples.

Those who wish to volunteer their vacation time to help in a worthy cause might want to contact Amizade, Ltd., a nonprofit organization that directs volunteers to the

type of activity and location that interests them in Brazil and other South American countries. Amizade projects range from building a dormitory for an environmental organization in Bolivia to building a vocational training center for street children in Brazil.

H.E.

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A QUARTET OF UP-AND-COMING LANGUAGES

There are some exciting alternatives to the usual choices of foreign language study, in equally exciting locations.

In these days when everybody's talking about globalization, it's time to put those tried-and-true Eurocentric idioms – English and French, German and Spanish – on the linguistic back burner. Useful, yes, but up and coming they are not. After all, it's become no big deal to surf the Net in English, but how many foreigners can wrap their tongues around a samba?

It's time to read the Cyrillic on the wall: the hippest languages these days are the ones spoken in some of the world's largest, exciting and rapidly metamorphosing regions: Brazil, Russia, China and the "Middle East" – regions with enormous populations and intriguing cultures that transform on-site language study into a full-blown adventure.

Portuguese delights

For the romance factor alone, Brazilian Portuguese should be a compulsory language. It is sonorous and sensuous, and in a world increasingly full of *caipirinhas*, *feijoadas* and Brazilians themselves – a stabilized economy put an end to a monthly inflation rates of 40 percent and sent record numbers of Brazilians on round-the-world shopping sprees – it is a tongue to be reckoned with.

Studying at the Diálogo Institute furnishes one with a great excuse to visit one of the oldest preserved colonial cities in the Americas, Salvador da Bahia. An intoxicating mixture of baroque churches and tropical beaches, here Afro-Brazilian culture reigns and drum-driven music seeps into every aspect of life.

Daily morning classes are supplemented by field trips to beaches, markets and Bahia's historical center. The Summer Program goes further by adding an afternoon of Afro-Brazilian cultural activities, which range from dancing a *capoeira* to preparing a spicy crab *moqueca*.

To complete the experience, the school places students in the homes of local families – probably among the most hospitable on the planet – although guest houses and hotels are also available.

Russian to measure

Moving north, there's a new energy emanating from Europe's capital of the moment – Moscow. So just imagine how impressive it would be to return from this hip metropolis, armed not only with the obligatory vodka and wooden Petrushka

dolls of Soviet leaders, but quoting the likes of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky in the original.

Based in New York, Língua Services Worldwide serves as a liaison for several Russian-language schools, one of the most interesting of which is IPOREX, whose clients have included Philip Morris and the International Red Cross Committee. Ideal for busy executives and eager scholars, IPOREX offers one-on-one tutorials of 15 hours a week, individually tailored by private teachers to meet specific linguistic and personal goals:

Teachers show up for lessons at the student's Moscow address – as part of the program, they live in authentic Muscovite digs with authentic Muscovites eager to take them behind the city scenes – the triple bonus of which is: no schlepping back and forth to school, no distracting mingling with other foreign students and the decadent possibility of being taught while wearing pajamas.

Chinese at the source

Speaking of pajamas – it might be easy to pick up a silk pair while brushing up on one's Mandarin. With the "sleeping giant" known as China waking up and stretching its limbs all over the world, everybody from

politicians and tycoons to fans of Gong Li and dim sum are learning the language.

Toronto-based Languages Abroad International organizes classes at its school in the pulsing, centuries-old Chinese capital of Beijing. There's nothing like chugging through the colorful streets from the host family's house to a 10 A.M. class – in a rickshaw. Four hours of daily classes are complemented by numerous cultural excursions, including day trips to the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs.

Arab in Yemen Another great cradle of civilization currently creating a stir is Yemen, the "roof of Arabia," "Land of the Queen of Sheba" and (surprisingly) the Birthplace of Coffee.

Says Andy Barwig, who works at the Arab-American Institute in Washington, D.C.: "I have studied Arabic at many different places, and I can say Yemen is the best country to learn Arabic in. Unlike in Egypt and Jordan, where English is so much of a status symbol, Yemenis are more than flattered when a foreigner tries to speak in their language."

Mr. Barwig learned his Arabic at the "small but professional" Yemeni Language Center, located in the ancient Jewish quarter of the 2,000-

year-old mountain city of Sana'a. Students are lodged in men's and women's residences located in historic Yemeni houses and have ample opportunity to discover this mysterious country – which until the 1960s was

closed to Westerners. So much the better, according to YCL alumni Scott Lucas, who confesses that the lack of overt Western nightlife "eliminates a major distraction to evening study!" M.S.

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BACK ON CAMPUS AGAIN

There's a second chance to make it into Harvard: summer programs.

It's one of life's ironies that many people spend the first two decades of their lives awaiting the arrival of summer to free them from the drudgery of school, only to find themselves in later decades storming the registration lines for admission to summer school.

Must be a sign of the times, but nobody seems to want to be caught doing nothing anymore. With time's winged chariot rushing toward The Millennium, students of eras past are fast returning to school to upgrade their skills, discover new talents, or simply load up on brain food while traveling abroad.

Many of these born-again students are returning – under a variety of circumstances – to the hallowed halls of the planet's oldest and most revered universities.

Miami-based University Vacations organizes luxurious learning vacations to many of these groves of academia, including a one-week trip to one of the most senior of them all – Italy's University of Bologna. Founded in the early 11th century, Bologna welcomed its first students princes and aristocrats, who came from afar to study astronomy and philosophy. Those who follow in their footsteps in 1998 will find things perhaps not so different. In between lectures at the university by medieval Italian art and history experts and field trips through both baroque Bologna and nearby Byzantine Ravenna, students shack up at the former palace of the powerful Malvezzi family and chow down at elegant restaurants serving five-course Bonnagno banquets.

Students can take advantage of the high-tech equipment lodged in Harvard's historic buildings and get an enviable head start in the yearlong rat race by sampling from the Computer Science department's many options. If, however, "Introduction to Java Programming" and "Object-Oriented Software Engineering" prove too fast-track, the unique Writing Program workshops can help them pen everything from poems, scripts and memoirs to grant proposals, legal documents and college application forms — the latter especially handy if, after a brief exposure to the above offerings, one wants to return being a full-time student.

Michael Sommers

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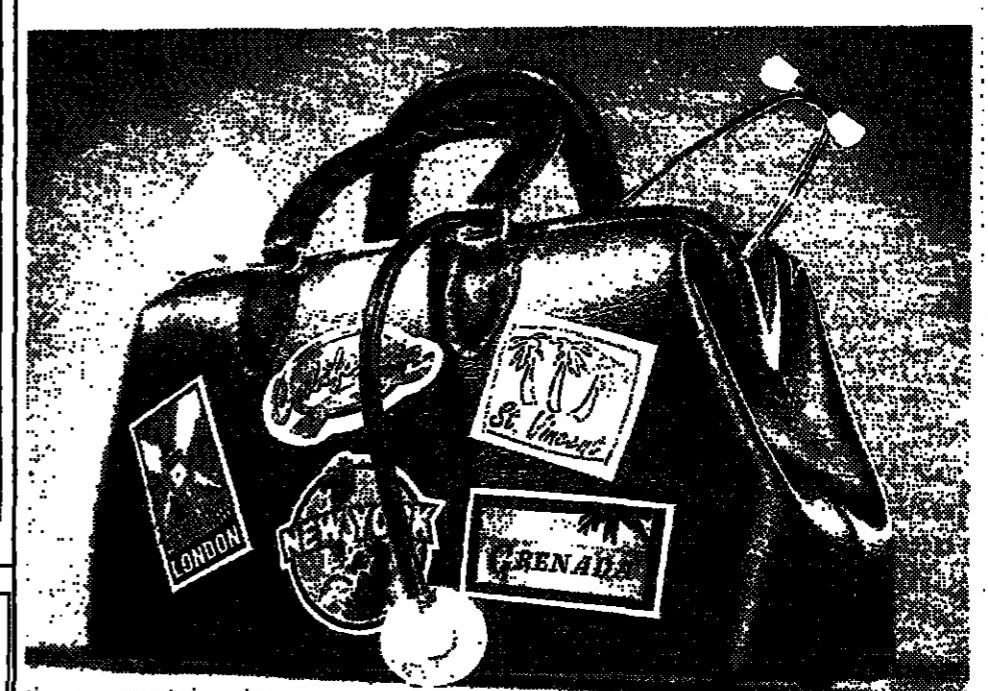
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Bayern Stays in Touch

Champion Keeps Chasing Kaiserslautern; Porto and Bruges Clinch Championships

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MUNICH — Bayern Munich, beat Leverkusen, 2-1, Sunday, to keep alive its title hopes in the Bundesliga.

The victory pulled the defending champion to within one point of Kais-

erslautern. Kaiserslautern has three matches to play, Bayern has only two.

Michael Tarnat scored with a free kick after 16 minutes. Ruggiero Rizzitelli shook off two Leverkusen players to score the second in the 49th minute.

Paulo Rink scored from close range in the 83d minute for third-place Leverkusen, which saw its last hopes of finishing second and gaining a place in next season's Champions League berth slip away after a dismal performance.

"I'm speechless. The players knew what this match meant — it meant everything," said Christoph Daum, the Leverkusen coach.

On Friday, Kaiserslautern beat Borussia Moenchengladbach, 3-2, after trailing 2-0. Olaf Marschall scored a hat-trick, heading in the 3-2 game-winner seconds before end.

ENGLAND A brilliant goal by Dennis Bergkamp and one from Marc Overmars gave Arsenal a 2-0 victory at Barnsley to put the London club four points ahead at the top of the Premier League. Arsenal needs six points from its last four games to clinch the title.

Manchester United, the only team that can catch Arsenal, plays Crystal Palace on Monday.

On Sunday, Leicester City scored twice in the first two minutes and twice

more in the next 13 as it won, 4-0, at Derby County. Emile Heskey scored twice and Muzzy Izzet and Ian Marshall once each. All the goals were headers.

BELGIUM FC Bruges clinched the Belgian league title Sunday without kicking a ball when second-place Racing Genk lost its last chance to catch the leader. Genk lost, 3-1, at home to last season's champion Lierse, leaving Bruges with an insurmountable 11-point lead with three rounds to play.

PORTUGAL Porto won the Portuguese championship for the fourth successive year when it beat Boavista, 3-2, in Oporto on Sunday. Porto needed just one point after Benfica drew, 0-0, at Varzim on Saturday.

NETHERLANDS Feyenoord came back from 3-0 down at half-time to gain a 3-3 draw with PSV Eindhoven on Sunday. PSV still needs two points from its last two games to clinch the second Dutch Champions League berth.

Ajax, already the champion, lost only its second game of the season, going down, 2-0, at Vitesse Arnhem. Ajax failed to score for the first time in the league this season.

SPAIN Atletico Madrid's hopes of qualifying for UEFA Cup play next season took another setback Sunday, when Atletico conceded a late penalty and with it two points in a 2-2 tie at home with Tenerife. Barcelona, which has already clinched first place, drew, 1-1, with Espanyol on Saturday.

ITALY Parma and Udinese earned key victories over the two Roman teams in the battle for UEFA Cup places.

Parma fought back from a 1-0 deficit with two goals in a three-minute span of the second half to beat third-place



Zinedine Zidane of Juventus, left, challenging Inter Milan's Javier Zanetti for control of the ball in their league game Sunday in Turin.

Lazio, 2-1, in Rome. Udinese beat Roma, 4-2, in Udine as Oliver Bierhoff scored twice to take the league lead from Ronaldo or Inter with 23 goals.

Lecco was routed, 5-1 at Empoli to lose any hope of staying off demotion.

In other games, Roberto Baggio raised his slim hopes of a spot on the World Cup roster by scoring two goals for the second straight week as Bologna won, 3-1, in Brescia.

FRANCE Tony Vairelles hit a hat trick as Lens crushed visiting Bastia, 5-1, Saturday while Celtic, the league leader, were held at home by Hibernian.

Lazio, 2-1, in Rome. Udinese beat Roma, 4-2, in Udine as Oliver Bierhoff scored twice to take the league lead from Ronaldo or Inter with 23 goals.

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SCOTLAND Rino Gattuso scored twice as Rangers, second in the premier division, beat third-place Heart, 3-0, Saturday while Celtic, the league leader, were held at home by Hibernian.

Anton Slips by Moroccan In London Marathon

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Abel Anton of Spain, the world champion marathon runner, overtook Abdellah Mouaziz, a Moroccan, near the finish line to win the London Marathon on Sunday.

The Spaniard made up a 100-yard deficit in the final mile to win in 2 hours 7 minutes and 57 seconds, two seconds behind the race record set last year by Antonio Pinto of Portugal.

Mouaziz, who was tiring, held on for second place, 10 seconds slower, and Pinto placed third in 2:08:13.

Catherine McKiernan made up a deficit of 1 minute 40 seconds to easily win the women's race.

The Irish runner swept past Lidia Simon of Romania and Adriana Fernandez of Mexico with five miles (8 kilometers) to go and won in 2 hours 26 minutes 26 seconds.

Liz McColgan, who was 28 seconds behind McKiernan, placed second.

Joyce Chepchumba, the defending titlist, was third in 2:27:22.

In the men's race, Anton and Pinto, usually rivals, worked together to catch Mouaziz. "We tried to work together to try and catch the Moroccan and I said to Abel, 'We did a good job, you go and try to catch him,'" Pinto said.

Anton slowed slightly when he waved to the crowds in the straight near the finish line and that cost him the race record and a \$25,000 bonus to go with his \$55,000 winner's check. "Maybe when I'm 60 years old I will think that I lost \$25,000 waving to the people," said the Spaniard.

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second place, 10 seconds slower, and

Pinto placed third in 2:08:13.

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Liz McColgan, who was 28 seconds

behind McKiernan, placed second.

Fikadu Bekele of Ethiopia won the

Madrid Marathon on Sunday. Bekele,

who lives in Spain, finished in 2:17:59,

more than two minutes ahead of Jesus de Grado, Josefa Cruz of Spain won the women's race in 2:39:11, followed by Yesina Centeno of Cuba at 2:44:57.

(AP, Reuters, AFP)

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION

WEST DIVISION

NATIONAL LEAGUE

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SPORTS



The Rockies' catcher, Jeff Reed, tagging out Keith Lockhart of the Braves. Colorado beat host Atlanta, 11-7.

Castilla Homers Twice Off Maddux**Slugger Gives Colorado Victory and Takes NL Lead in Home Runs***The Associated Press*

ATLANTA — Vinny Castilla homered twice Sunday to take over the National League lead with 11, and the Colorado Rockies took a six-run lead against Greg Maddux and held on to beat the Atlanta Braves.

— Castilla was 4-for-4 and drove in five runs. He hit a two-run double off Maddux in the four-run first, a two-run homer in the third and a solo homer in the eighth off Mike Cather. Castilla, who raised his average to .323, also leads the league with 32 runs batted in.

Maddux was pound for six runs and 10 hits in five innings. It was the most runs and hits he had allowed since June 7, 1996, when the Rockies got seven earned runs in 3½ innings in Denver.

Phillies 9, Cardinals 3 In Philadelphia. Curt Schilling struck out 13 and Mike Lieberthal homered and drove in four runs as the Phillies beat St. Louis.

Schilling fanned Mark McGwire three times and increased his major-league leading strikeout total to 65.

Lieberthal's two-run homer in the sixth came off Todd Stottlemyre after the Cardinals had tied it 3-3 in the top of the inning. The Phillies then broke it open with four in the seventh off reliever John Frascatore.

In games played Saturday:

Cardinals 8, Phillies 5 McGwire hit his 10th home run, driving in two runs to cap a six-run seventh as visiting St. Louis rallied from a 5-0 deficit and

stopped a three-game losing streak. Philadelphia's starter, Matt Beech, took a one-hitter into the seventh.

Rockies 11, Braves 7 In Atlanta, Castilla hit his ninth homer and every Colorado starter but Mike Lansing had at least one run batted in as the Rockies

NL ROUNDUP

outrugged Atlanta for the second time in six days. The Rockies, who had just two victories in their previous eight games, fell behind 2-0 in the first but rallied for six runs in the third.

Padres 4, Pirates 3 In San Diego, Steve Finley hit a run-scoring single with one out in the 16th inning to end the longest game in the major leagues this season and give the Padres a victory over Pittsburgh.

Finley, who grounded out with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth, singled a single to left-center field to score Quilvio Veras and end the 4-hour, 31-minute marathon.

Dodgers 3, Cubs 2 In Los Angeles, Matt Williams hit a two-run homer of Vic Dazemburg in the 11th inning as his second homer of the game — to give Arizona its first extra-inning victory. Williams was 4-for-5 and raised his home-run total to six this season. It was his 28th multihomer game.

Brewers 1, Rockies 0 In Denver, Kirk Rueter combined with two relievers on a three-

hitter as San Francisco stopped a three-game losing streak and beat visiting Milwaukee for the first time in five games this season.

Astros 4, Expos 3 Craig Biggio hit a go-ahead groundout in the ninth as Houston rallied to win in Montreal.

Ricky Gutierrez drew a one-out walk from Ugueth Urbina and advanced to third on a single by Jack Howell, a pinch hitter. Biggio grounded to second, driving in Gutierrez, who scored the first run of the game. Urbina, who has pitched a total of 12½ innings.

Diamondbacks 4, Marlins 3 In Miami, Matt Williams hit a two-run homer of Vic Dazemburg in the 11th inning as his second homer of the game — to give Arizona its first extra-inning victory. Williams was 4-for-5 and raised his home-run total to six this season. It was his 28th multihomer game.

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Ripken Marks Game 2,500 With 3 RBIs*The Associated Press*

BALTIMORE — Cal Ripken stretched his major-league record of consecutive games to 2,500 and marked the occasion by driving in three runs as the Baltimore Orioles wallop the Oakland Athletics, 8-2.

On Saturday night, he broke open a scoreless game with a two-run, opposite-field bloop single in the sixth inning. He also had an infield single with the bases loaded in a five-run seventh.

"I think luck played a lot into it today," Ripken said. "I got lucky and janned the ball in right field and the other groundball had eyes and went to right spot of the field."

Ripken's record-setting streak began May 30, 1982.

Ripken homered on the night he tied Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games on Sept. 5, 1995, and he also homered again when he broke the mark one night later.

The crowd of 46,026 gave Ripken a standing ovation for two minutes as the scoreboard flashed the numbers 2-5-0 before the sixth inning. Ripken doffed his cap several times while standing at third base.

"Truthfully, I've gotten enough attention to last forever, or at least four or five lifetimes," he said before the game. "Sometimes, you get a little embarrassed if you get too much attention."

But all eyes were focused on him in the sixth. After Joe Carter led off with a

single off Jimmy Haynes and Rafael Palmeiro doubled, Ripken delivered a bloop on a 1-1 pitch, and Baltimore went on to win for only the third time in 10 games.

"He threw a high fastball that jammed me to death," Ripken said. "I was really lucky to get the ball out of the

AL ROUNDUP

infield. Sometimes luck plays a pretty important role in this game, and this was one of those times."

Red Sox 3, Indians 2 Bret Saberhagen continued his remarkable comeback, and Reggie Jefferson and Scott Hatteberg hit solo homers as visiting Boston beat the Indians. It was the Red Sox's 13th victory in 14 games.

Tom Goodwin went 3-for-5 with three RBIs for the Rangers.

Dean Palmer hit a two-run homer, and Jose Offerman went 3-for-4 for Kansas City.

White Sox 8, Mariners 2 In Seattle, Ron Coomer's first career grand slam capped a six-run ninth inning against the Mariners' bullpen. Javier Valentin also homered for the Twins, the first of his career.

Otis Nixon and Alex Ochoa got RBI singles in the ninth off Mike Timlin (1-2) before the Twins loaded the bases for Coomer, who connected off Heathcliff Slocum for his first homer this season.

Angels 7, Devil Rays 1 In St. Petersburg, Florida, Cecil Fielder broke out of a deep slump by driving in three runs with a single and double, leading Anaheim over

the Blue Jays 7-1. In St. Louis, Jim Campbell beat the Los Angeles goaltender, Jamie Storr, with 8:23 left as the Blues took a 2-0 series lead.

After being limited to 15 shots in the first two periods, the Blues turned up the pressure with 12 shots in the third against Storr, a rookie making his first playoff start.

The Blues were 0-for-6 on the power play before the goal from Campbell, who had 22 in the regular season.

Chris Pronger scored in the second period for the Blues, and Grant Fuhr stopped 26 shots for his 82nd career playoff victory.

Glen Murray scored his second goal of the playoffs for the Kings.

After that, the Penguins took advan-

Penguins Even the Score With Montreal*The Associated Press*

PITTSBURGH — The Montreal Canadiens spent all week working on a gimmick defense to contain Jaromir Jagr. Maybe they should have worried more about St. Barnes and Ron Francis, the other two guys on the Pittsburgh Penguins' premier line.

Barnes scored twice — once when Vladimir Malakhov of Montreal accidentally knocked the puck into his own net — and got an assist as the Penguins evened their first playoff series against the Canadiens on Saturday night by winning, 4-1.

Montreal again relied heavily on the modified left-wing lock defense, which features a defenseman rather than a forward at left wing, that centralized Jagr — the National Hockey League's scoring champion — in Game 1. But this time, Jagr's linemates figured in all four Pittsburgh goals.

"It's not like we made any big adjustments, at least consciously," Barnes said. "We just got a few more bounces this game."

tage of the reluctance of the referee, Kerry Fraser, to call penalties after giving each team a two-man advantage in the second on a shot they did not take.

With defenseman Igor Uljanov occupied with Jagr, Barnes skated un-

impeded across the left circle and was tripped by Malakhov as he went sprawling across the goal line. But Barnes managed to put his stick on the puck, and Malakhov, attempting to swipe it away, inadvertently shot it into his own net for the go-ahead goal at 10:42 of the second.

"You get lucky sometimes. It had some bounces, didn't it?" Barnes said. "This time of the year, you take them any way you get them."

Malakhov refused to comment, but Montreal's goaltender, Andy Moog, said, "I just came off the post a hair, and that's all the puck needs, an inch, and it slid in there."

After that, the Penguins took advan-

Knicks Rally to Cool Off the Heat**Ward and Childs Combine to Hold Miami's Hardaway to 15 Points***The Associated Press*

MIAMI — With a burst of emotion and balanced attack that was missing in Game 1, the New York Knicks landed a counter-punch Sunday against the Miami Heat.

John Starks scored 25 points, Allan Houston had 24 and Larry Johnson 22 as the

NBA PLAYOFFS

Knicks rallied from a 14-point deficit to beat the Heat, 96-86, and even their best-of-5 series at 1-1.

Terry Cummings, who did not even play in Game 1, grabbed 14 rebounds, including five on the offensive end, and two point guards, Charlie Ward and Chris Childs, combined to shut down Tim Hardaway, holding him to 15 points on 4-for-15 shooting to prevent a repeat of his 34-point performance in Game 1.

The two teams will meet again Tuesday for Game 3 in Madison Square Garden, where the Heat's career record is 3-22.

The Knicks, who were outscored 33-3 from 3-point range in Game 1, this time went 7-for-15 to Miami's 5-for-19. New York rallied in the second period by hitting four consecutive 3-pointers — two each by Starks and Houston.

The playoff victory was New York's first since 1984 without Patrick Ewing, who again watched from the bench.

It was another bruising but clean game between two of the National Basketball Association's most bitter rivals. The biggest difference this time was the passion shown by the aging Knicks, who pumped their fists and jumped around like youngsters as they pulled away in the fourth quarter.

Childs even drew an imaginary knife across his throat after hitting a 3-pointer with 1:52 left for an 8-point lead.

Rickie Williams hit a two-run homer of Vic Dazemburg in the 11th inning as his second homer of the game — to give Arizona its first extra-inning victory. Williams was 4-for-5 and raised his home-run total to six this season. It was his 28th multihomer game.

Padres 4, Pirates 3 In San Diego, Steve Finley hit a run-scoring single with one out in the 16th inning to end the longest game in the major leagues this season and give the Padres a victory over Pittsburgh.

Finley, who grounded out with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth, singled a single to left-center field to score Quilvio Veras and end the 4-hour, 31-minute marathon.

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Brewers 1, Rockies 0 In Denver, Kirk Rueter combined with two relievers on a three-

and Voshon Lenard scored 25 points, a career playoff high.

New York took the lead for good on two free throws by Starks to make it 69-67 with two minutes left in the third period. Consecutive baskets by Houston and a 3-point play by Starks made it 83-74 with 6:17 remaining.

Starks closed to 87-82 with 2:28 left on two straight baskets by Mourning, but Childs buried his 3-pointer — and the Heat — with 1:52 to go.

In games played Saturday:

Jazz 105, Rockets 90 Utah and Houston played another barn-burner with bodies and insults flying all over the court. Utah won to even the first-round series at one game apiece, but both teams know the real series is just starting.

"All we really accomplished tonight was stopping the bleeding," said John Stockton, who had 17 points and 10 assists. "We're not going to win this thing easily."

Kevin Willis of the Rockets said: "We did some good things, but we let the crowd and the fans get in our heads."

The Rockets would not go quietly. They had four technical fouls, two disqualifications and one ejection. Houston looked on the verge of a comeback, until Hakeem Olajuwon, who led the Rockets with 16 points, was ejected with 5:19 remaining.

Karl Malone scored 11 of

his 29 points in the third

quarter as the Jazz outscored

Houston 10-4 in the fourth.

Hornets 92, Hawks 85 — While Glen Rice was sitting on the bench with his fifth foul, Anthony Mason and David Wesley powered a late 13-3 run that sent Charlotte to a victory and a 2-0 lead over Atlanta in their best-of-five playoff series.

Mason had nine points and

Wesley four in the surge,

which put the Hornets up by

10 with 2:37 left.

Mason finished with 25

points to help give Charlotte an imposing edge as the series

shifts to Atlanta for the third game Tuesday night.

Rice finished with 24 points and a season-high 13 rebounds, and Wesley added 18 points and six assists for the Hornets in a game peppered with 52 personal fouls.

Pacers 92, Cavaliers 86 Reggie Miller's 18 points led a balanced attack as the Pacers came back from a 17-point deficit to beat Cleveland.

The victory gave Indiana a 2-0 lead in its Eastern Conference playoff series. The third game will be in Cleveland on Monday night.

Cleveland closed to 89-86 with a basket by Shawn Kemp with 30 seconds left, but Rose, who finished with 17 points, then hit three free

throws and the Cavaliers' Danny Ferry and Wesley Person missed 3-point attempts.

Suns 108, Spurs 101 Antonio McDyess had 21 points and 11 rebounds and limited Tim Duncan to half of his Game 1 scoring output as Phoenix beat San Antonio to even their Western Conference playoff series, 1-1.

Duncan had 16 points, 10 rebounds and 4 blocks.

The series moves to San Antonio for games Monday and Wednesday. If a fifth game is needed, it will be played Sunday in Phoenix.

Avery Johnson had 20 points and eight assists for the Spurs, and David Robinson had 23 points and 16 rebounds.

Herald Tribune

INTERNATIONAL

SPORTS

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1998

WORLD ROUNDUP

Rested Bjorn Wins

GOLF Thomas Bjorn overtook Greg Chalmers with a 6-under-par final round of 66 on Sunday to win the Spanish Open in Barcelona.

Bjorn, a Dane, finished one shot ahead of Chalmers, an Australian, who had led the tournament from day one. Chalmers carded 69 to finish at 268. He was tied with Jose Maria Olazabal, who shot a 67.

Bjorn had not played for five weeks. "It showed me these weeks of rest are very important when you are not feeling comfortable on the course," he said. (Reuters)

Jones Is King of the Hill

BOXING Roy Jones Jr., the light-heavyweight champion in the WBC, scored a fourth-round knockout over Virgil Hill, a former IBF and WBA champ, in Biloxi, Mississippi, on Saturday night.

Jones, who had fought just one round in the previous year, showed he is still one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in the world.

About a minute into the fourth round, Jones delivered two hard rights. The second, an apparent kidney punch, sent Hill to the canvas in obvious pain. Hill got up, but the referee stopped the bout. Hill was taken to a hospital with what a ringside doctor said was apparently a fractured rib.

Jones improved to 36-1 with his 31st knockout. Hill is 43-3. (AP)

• In Cardiff, Joe Calzaghe, an unbeaten Welshman, held onto his WBO super-middleweight title Saturday when Juan Carlos Gimenez of Paraguay failed to come out for the 10th round.

It was the first time in 53 contests that Gimenez had lost before the final bell. The Paraguayan never had the punching power to worry the champion. (Reuters)

Five Matches Sold Out

SOCCER France's World Cup organizers sold 15,000 more tickets as they were bombarded by 3.3 million more calls Saturday.

A spokesman for the organizing committee said five more matches had been sold out, bringing the total to 12 after four days of sales of the remaining 110,000 first and second round tickets.

The matches sold out on Saturday were Argentina-Japan in Toulouse on June 13 and Argentina-Jamaica in Paris on June 21, Brazil-Morocco in Nantes on June 16, France-Denmark in Lyon June 24 and England-Colombia in Lens on June 26.

• Carlos Valderrama, the Colombian captain, must settle a debt with the French tax authorities before he can come to France for the World Cup. Valderrama played for Montpellier in France from 1988 to 1991, and left owing taxes of 189,000 francs (\$31,500).

The Colombian soccer federation is reportedly helping the midfield veteran to settle the debt. (AP)

Juventus Beats Inter, 1-0, Nearing League Title

The Associated Press

ROME — Alessandro Del Piero won his battle with Ronaldo and, as a result, Juventus of Turin won its battle with Inter Milan, 1-0, Sunday to move closer to its third Italian Serie A title in four years.

In a hotly contested match, Del Piero struck a magical goal in the 21st minute

Soccer Roundup, Page 18

and although he later missed a penalty shot, Juventus, the league leader, held on to beat second-ranked Inter Milan.

Angelo Peruzzi, the Juventus goalie, made two reflex saves in the closing minutes, first denying Ronaldo and then Ivan Zamorano.

"We deserved to win. When you have to suffer on the field, Juventus knows how to suffer," said Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach. "We played well and managed to keep our heads until the end of the game."

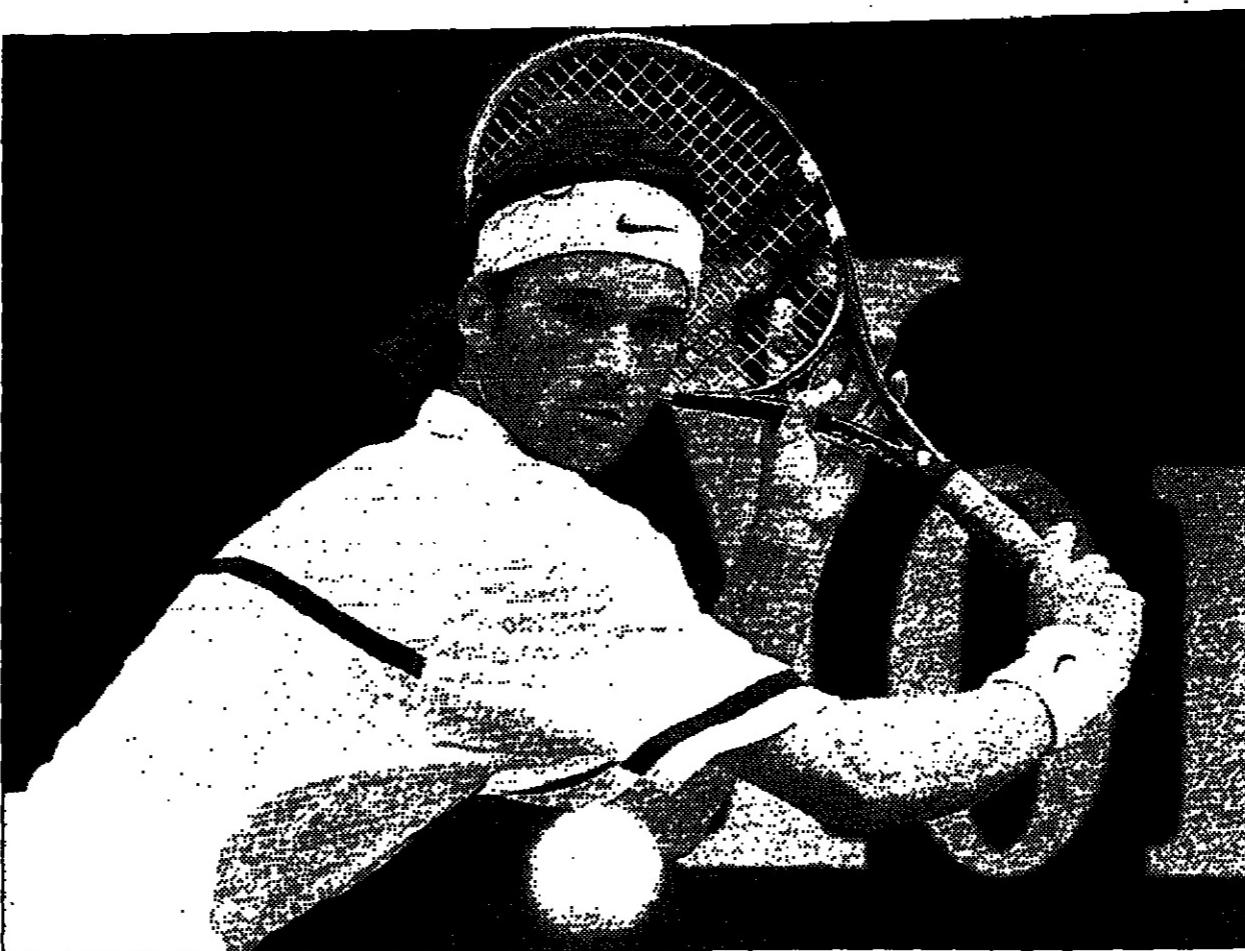
Play turned ugly in the second half, with a series of fouls by both teams and the expulsion of Ze Elias, an Inter midfielder, with 11 minutes left. Luigi Simoni, Inter's coach, was ejected in the 70th minute, as his club's six-game winning streak ended. That run had coincided with Ronaldo's six-game scoring streak. But Juventus guarded him tightly Sunday. He threatened to score on three occasions, and was at the center of the episode that led to Simoni's expulsion.

Ronaldo collided with Mark Jultano in the Juventus penalty area. No foul was called. Juventus counterattacked, and Taribo West fouled Del Piero. The referee called that penalty, then turned to send off Simoni, who had raced onto the field to argue that Ronaldo had been fouled at the other end.

"I was too high-strung, and the referee was right to throw me out," Simoni said.



Ronaldo reacts to a missed chance.



Eric Gallard/Reuters

Moya Shines on Monte Carlo Clay

21-Year-Old Spaniard Controls Match With Pioline for Trophy

By Christopher Clarey

International Herald Tribune

MONTE CARLO — Last April, a 21-year-old Spanish speaker with long, dark hair and precocious groundstrokes won his first major professional tournament at the Monte Carlo Country Club. Then Marcelo Rios went on to become No. 1 in the world.

It will be intriguing to watch what happens to Carlos Moya in the months and events ahead. Born and reared on the Spanish island of Majorca, the 21-year-old Moya also possesses exceptional ability and hair that dangles below his collar, and on Sunday at the Monte Carlo Open, he won what the injured Rios was unable to defend.

"I hope I can become No. 1 as he did, but it's more difficult," Moya said. "You have to win a few more like this, even a Grand Slam, to get there. I don't think Marcelo would have said he was going to become No. 1 after just one year."

In the final, Moya — ranked 18 in the world — beat Cedric Pioline of France, 6-3, 6-0, 7-5, but he did his best work earlier in the week, disposing of the former French Open champions Thomas Muster and Yevgeni Kafelnikov in straight sets and then doing the same to his countryman Alex Corretja, the most consistent player on clay last season. Moya's toughest match came in the semifinals Saturday, when he defeated Richard Krajicek, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

As tough as that victory was, it was not nearly as taxing as Pioline's semi-final victory over Alberto Berasategui of Spain. Despite reaching the final of

Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, Pioline has rarely been a player to inspire crowds, even in France. An introvert, he does not exude passion, and his powerful all-court game is more efficient than effervescent.

The Monte Carlo Country Club is technically on French territory, barely 100 meters (325 feet) across the border from Monaco, and, this time, Pioline was genuinely inspirational at home.

Pioline trailed 5-1 in the third set before finding a way to solve the enormous riddle of Berasategui's unorthodox forehand. After saving two match points, the exhausted Frenchman rallied to win in the tiebreaker, 7-5, and then underwent extensive treatment to prepare for the final.

Midway through the opening set on Sunday, it became clear that Moya was the fresher man. Trailing 4-3, Pioline rubbed at his right elbow on the changeover and then called for the trainer after losing the next two games. He finished the match with an elastic brace on his elbow, and though he lifted his game and the crowd's mood in the final set, he was unable to hold his serve with any consistency.

"I would have loved to have had another miracle today like yesterday, but it wasn't to be," said Pioline, who

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